SO VO
SOUTHERN VOICE
SEPTEMBER 26, 2008 . WWW.SOVO.COM

QUEER INK

Gay culture's rich history of tattooing thrives in Atlanta

PAGE 33

Photo by Bo Shell

Luck of the draw: Lottery may decide if Pride returns to Piedmont Park. **Page 12**

Blue state? Obama campaign says Ga. still winnable for Democratic ticket in Nov. **Page 5**

Also inside: 'Another Gay Sequel,' Ani DiFranco's new album, and Clay Aiken finally comes out.

We Take Pride in Your Pride and Joy.

"During the buying process I visited many dealers and only RBM truly understood my needs. They made my partner and me feel like family. I've never been happier with a vehicle or the buying process. My salesperson and the management team transformed a frustrating process into one I thoroughly enjoyed. It was well worth the trip from Miami to visit them. Not all dealers are created equal."

Larry took a short road trip–from Miami to Atlanta to purchase his dream car. That may seem a little extreme but when you want the perfect car doesn't it make sense to work with the dealership that takes the time to know you and your needs? RBM of Atlanta.

Mercedes-Benz RBM OF ATLANTA MAYBACH

Your Mercedes-Benz Connection Since 1964

www.rbmofatlanta.com

7640 Roswell Road, Atlanta, GA 30350 • 770-390-0700

Atlanta's Largest Volume Mercedes-Benz Dealership

SOUTHERN VOICE

SEPT. 26 - OCT. 2, 2008

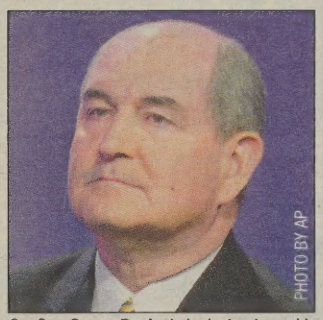


PHOTO BY AP

Ga. Gov. **Sonny Perdue**'s budget cuts could hurt HIV prevention. **Page 8**

COVER

Gay culture's rich history of tattooing thrives in ATL. **Page 33**

NEWS

Ga. still winnable, Obama campaign says. **Page 5**
Obama's gay leading strategist speaks out. **Page 5**
Queering the gender binary. **Page 6**
Southern Comfort Conference comes to town. **Page 6**
DHR budget cuts threaten HIV prevention? **Page 8**
Fourth Tuesday, ALHI form alliance. **Page 10**
ATL Pride could be held in city park. **Page 12**
YouthPride offers foster care seminar. **Page 12**
McCain, Obama set for first debate. **Page 15**
Phyllis Lyon remembers wife Del Martin. **Page 16**
Federal hearing held on DP benefits. **Page 18**
AIDS conference calls for national strategy. **Page 20**
National news briefs. **Page 21**

VIEWS

Editorial: 'Isms' vs. issues. **Page 22**
Friend or foe? Steven Spielberg, Mark Buse. **Page 22**
Soapbox & the Q: Readers speak out. Page 23

COMMUNITY

Gay Jews reflect during High Holy Days. **Page 27**
Sports: Too straight to play gay softball? **Page 28**

CALENDAR

Pages 24-25

SCENE

Scene briefs: Linda Villarosa, Indiegrrl Fest. **Page 34**
Art: Atlanta artist Chas is public property. **Page 37**
Film: Not 'Wild' about 'Another Gay Sequel.' **Page 39**
Nightlife: Social Tuesdays add to the mix. **Page 40**
Music: A kinder, gentler Ani DiFranco. **Page 41**
Dish: Clay Aiken comes out. **Page 44**
Q Puzzle. **Page 46**

All material in Southern Voice is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced without the written consent of Southern Voice. The sexual orientation of advertisers, photographers, writers and cartoonists published herein is neither inferred or implied. The appearance of names or pictorial representation does not necessarily indicate the sexual orientation of that person or persons.

The editorial positions of Southern Voice are expressed in editorials and in the editor's notes as determined by the editor. Other opinions are those of writers and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Southern Voice or its staff.

Photo by AP

"Because no one has the right to deny another their life, even though they disagree with it, because everyone has the right to live the life they so desire if it doesn't harm another and because discrimination has no place in America, my vote will be for equality and against Proposition 8."

*Actor **Brad Pitt,** husband of actress Angelina Jolie, in a statement explaining why he donated $100,000 to the fight against a California ballot measure that would stop gay marriage there. (Los Angeles Times, Sept. 18)*

on the record

"All kinds of Christians are getting mad about my Sarah Palin comments, and it is pissing me off. … If you were truly Christians, you would let gays get married, and send them fucking presents from Bed Bath & Beyond! If you truly believed in Jesus, you would try to be like him and love us, fags and dykes and feminists all. God bless you, even you. You fucking fuckers."

*Actress and comedian **Margaret Cho** in a blog post about criticism she received for calling Palin "evil" and neither a feminist nor a Christian. (margaretcho.com/blog, Sept. 17)*

"The one thing that really bothers me is the fact the politicians who are against civil unions never refuse a gay vote, and the state (which denies gays of civil unions) does not refuse taxes paid by homosexuals. Why is that? The only thing that matters is that these individuals are Brazilian citizens, and respect the Constitution. The rest is up to them, and I am in favor of civil unions."

Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva in a Sept. 17 interview with TV Brazil (MadeinBrazil.typepad.com, Sept. 18)

"L was gonna stand for love though or La. Since people want to play games, I like to jab back sometimes just for fun, but I'm like, 'Nah, that's too much energy wasted.'"

*Hip-hop artist **Queen Latifah** on how she considered naming her new album "The L Word" "just to mess with people's heads." Latifah has long been rumored to be gay. (Rolling Stone, Sept. 12)*

"At best, this is a case about passion. When [Zapata] smiled at him, this was a highly provoking act, and it would cause someone to have an aggressive reaction."

Annette Kundelius, attorney for Allen Andrade, arguing in court that the first-degree murder charge filed against her client should be lowered to second-degree. Andrade allegedly had oral sex with Angie Zapata, then beat her to death with a fire extinguisher after learning she was transgender. (Denver Post, Sept. 19)

Margaret Cho (Photo by Ron Jaffe courtesy VH1)

Queen Latifah (Photo by AP)

"I'm honored to participate in this event. Discrimination has no place in this country and I am proud to stand with HRC in the fight to end it. Barack Obama and I will bring the change we need in Washington. The Bush Administration's policies have been disastrous for the LGBT community and a McCain Administration would just mean four more years of the same."

Democratic vice presidential nominee Sen. Joe Biden on the announcement that he will be the keynote speaker at the gay Human Rights Campaign's National Dinner on Oct. 4. (HRC press release, Sept. 18)

"I've seen him on tour roaring drunk, out of his mind in the early days before he sobered up and went to rehab. Roaring drunk and it was always with a female. If you've got a little gay tendency and you're roaring drunk I'd have caught him once."

Paul McCartney on why he doesn't believe that fellow Beatle John Lennon was gay, despite a new biography of Lennon by Philip Norman. Lennon was murdered in 1980. (Herald Sun, Sept. 15)

SOUTHERN VOICE
1075 Zonolite Road, Suite 1-D
Atlanta, GA 30306
404-876-1819
(fax) 404-876-2709
editor@sovo.com
www.sovo.com

PUBLISHER
STEVE LONDON EXT. 24

EDITORIAL
Editor LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN EXT. 19
Features Editor MIKE FLEMING EXT. 30
News Editor DYANA BAGBY EXT. 34
Senior Reporter RYAN LEE EXT. 36
Reporter MATT SCHAFER EXT. 32
Editorial Intern RORY PARKER EXT. 13
Correspondents LOU CHIBBARO, CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON, KEVIN NAFF, JOSHUA LYNSEN, JOEY DiGULIELMO,
Contributors JIM FARMER, MATT FORKE, JOE PHILLIPS, SHER PRUITT
Illustrators ALISON BECHDEL, DAVID BRADY
Online Editor REBECCA ARMENDARIZ
Webmaster STEVE RYAN
Content Manager RYAN WATKINS
rwatkins@window-media.com
IT Manager QUINN MANSFIELD
qmansfield@window-media.com

ADVERTISING & SALES
Sr. Account Executives
CHUCK HERRHOLTZ EXT. 11
Account Executives
NICHOLAS JACOBS EXT. 21
KEVIN DAVIS EXT. 15
BRANDI CLARK EXT. 23
TIM KELLEY EXT. 29
Classified Sales TIFFANY BROADWATER EXT. 33
Marketing Manager JEFF NEW EXT. 46

PRODUCTION
Production Manager JOHN NAIL EXT. 28
Page Designer BO SHELL EXT. 17
Graphic Designer MIKE RITTER EXT. 27

ADMINISTRATION
Circulation Manager
CHERYL SUMMERVILLE EXT. 12
HR Administrator JASON COHEN EXT. 14
Accounting Manager STEVE KLAHN EXT. 16
Collections Manager DEE DERVAN EXT. 33
Ad Traffic Manager GREGG HOLLOWAY EXT. 42
Collections Specialist KEN ROEBUCK EXT. 18
Assistant to the Publisher TIFFANY LEE EXT. 48
Front Desk DEAN WINBORN EXT. 10

National Ad Representative
RIVENDELL MEDIA
212-242-6863 or 908-232-2021

THE EDITORIAL POSITIONS of Southern Voice are expressed in editorials and in editor's notes as determined by the paper's editors. Other opinions are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Southern Voice or its staff.

TO SUBMIT A LETTER OR COMMENTARY:
Letters should be fewer than 400 words; commentaries should be fewer than 750 words. Submissions may be edited for content and length, and must include a name, address and phone number for verification. Send submissions by fax to 404-876-2709 or by regular mail to the Southern Voice office, attn: Letters/Commentary, or by e-mail to editor@sovo.com.

windowmedia

© 2008, Window Media LLC. All rights reserved.

VERIFIED AUDIT CIRCULATION www.verifiedaudit.com

AP Associated Press

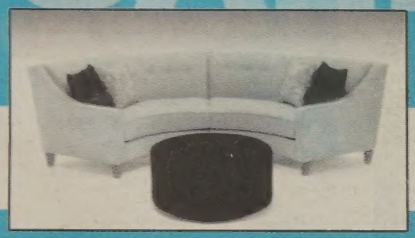
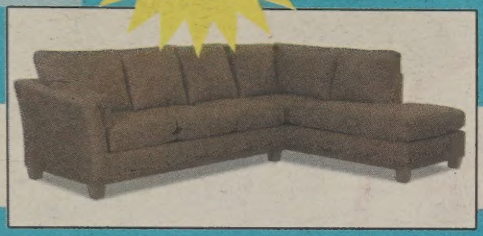
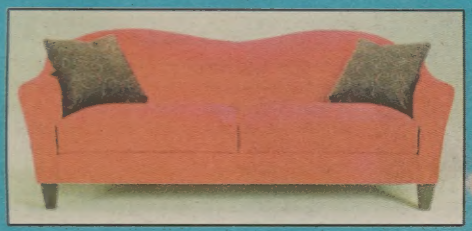
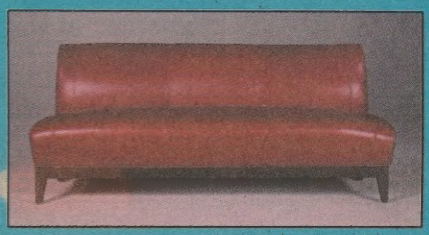
Bedroom • Living • Dining • Office • Rugs • Lighting • Interior Design

city living
home furnishings

SOFA SALE

NO CREDIT CHECK
FINANCING AVAILABLE

SOFA SALE
$100 OFF ALL SOFAS
$200 OFF ALL SECTIONALS
THROUGH SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH*

www.citylivinghome.com
FINANCING AVAILABLE

12 MONTHS
NO PAYMENTS
NO INTEREST

TWO LOCATIONS

MIDTOWN ATLANTA
1135 Chattahooche Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30318
404-350-9592
Mon-Sat; 10-6 • Sun: 12-5

STONECREST MALL
7342 Stonecrest Concourse
Lithonia, GA 30038 (Next to HH Greg)
770-482-2124
Mon-Sat; 11-6 • Sun: 12-6

*Cannot be combined with other offers. Not valid on prior invoices

We've GOT THE rings, GIVE us THE finger!

See our full selection of platinum, gold, white gold and sterling rings – with and without stones – to fit all tastes and budgets.

FINE JEWELRY, WATCHES AND ART...

WORTHMORE JEWELERS, INC

Amsterdam Walk + 500-L3 Amsterdam Ave. + Atlanta + 404/892-8294
Decatur Square + 117 East Court Square + Decatur + 404/370-3979
Visit www.worthmorejewelers.com for our store hours.
www.myspace.com/worthmore_jewelers

WE'VE MOVED TO A NEW LOCATION AFTER 36 YEARS!
2531 Piedmont Road, Lindbergh Plaza, Atlanta, GA 30324

Since 1984
ARTLITE Office Supply Co.

Artlite is very excited to represent Herman Miller, a wonderful collection of furniture including the amazing Aeron® chair.

Come choose from over 30 Aeron chairs on display, and find your perfect chair!

HermanMiller
for the home

Hours: Monday through Friday 9-7, Saturday 10-6

404-875-7271
www.artlitepens.com

Obama campaign still believes Ga. winnable

State LGBT coordinator works to turn out gay base

By MATT SCHAFER
mschafer@sovo.com

Barack Obama drew a crowd of 20,000 people to this 2007 rally at Georgia Tech. (Photo by Gregory Smith/AP)

For Sen. Barack Obama to win Georgia, his campaign must first change the minds of the existing average voter.

"We know that we most likely couldn't win the state with the current electorate, we had to grow the electorate in order to win," Steve Hildebrand, Obama's deputy national campaign manager, told Southern Voice during his second trip to Georgia in as many weeks.

Hildebrand, who is gay, said the Obama campaign is relying on diversity to win this election. To that end, the campaign invested nearly $3 million in television advertising with 52 paid staff in 33 offices across the state, plus almost 5,000 volunteers. Those volunteers have been working to register new voters until the registration deadline 30 days before the election, at which time they will move into "get out the vote" mode.

Obama's presidential campaign is attempting to expand turnout among those under age 30 and African Americans, said Edmund Thornton III, who was recently hired as Obama's LGBT field coordinator in Georgia. Thornton's job is it to energize the gay base and help create a database that will target gay voters.

"The biggest part of my job is I'm generating lists [of gay voters]. As I get this information I'm putting into the Democratic voter file," said Thornton, a former chair of the Stonewall Caucus of the Young Democrats of Georgia. "This is the first election where we had a national candidate that started creating a database for future elections where we could identify and target the LBGT community from here on out."

Thornton said information would be used to phone bank, seek out volunteers and ramp up enthusiasm in the base. He is also working to register gay voters and host events at gay venues.

FIGHTING FOR GEORGIA Hildebrand said Georgia was targeted as one of 18 battleground states, which included such Republican stalwarts as Alaska. Despite recently discontinuing television ads, and polls showing an average 12 percent lead for GOP presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, Hildebrand believes Georgia, and its 15 electoral votes, are winnable.

"We didn't pull them, we stopped running them, there is a big difference," Hildebrand said of the ads. "We didn't pull an ad buy because we were running out of money or we because we needed to pull it. We had a strategy that in early July we would go up in 18 states that we determined were going to be our battleground, and at the same time we put full staffing complements in those 18 states."

The campaign stopped the ads during the Democratic National Convention held Aug. 25-28 in Denver and has only returned to the air in states where McCain has begun to run ads, Hildebrand said. McCain has no offices in Georgia, made few appearances in Georgia and has run no ads in Georgia.

Calls to McCain's Southeast office in Tallahassee, Fla. went unreturned.

Hildebrand said, "By all accounts, [McCain] is taking this state for granted."

In 2000, Chuck Clay led Georgia's campaign for President George W. Bush as chairperson of the Republican Party. He is currently president of InsiderAdvantage, a political research firm that follows Georgia politics. Clay said McCain might not have to do much to win the state. While early numbers showed a closer race, McCain has garnered more support in Georgia as the campaigns have worn on.

"Numbers that were a month and a half, or right after the primaries that showed the state's numbers were close or fairly competitive, have moved toward McCain and that has largely been in women," Clay said. "I don't know if those were Hillary Clinton supporters, or if they were attracted by Gov. Sarah Palin, but they have switched their support more to McCain."

Dr. Harvey Newman, a political science professor at Georgia State University, said that it once looked like conservative voters might stay at home, but the addition of Palin to the ticket makes it unlikely.

GAY VOTE MAKE A DIFFERENCE? The Obama campaign is banking on new voters who often are not considered in polls to push them over the top.

"We still believe its winnable and we're here to fight it out. We've registered a huge number of voters in this state," Hildebrand said.

Hildebrand said the Obama campaign has registered at least 100,000 new voters in Georgia since the beginning of the year. "Frankly it's been our most successful program in the country as far as registration goes," he said.

If Obama does ride a wave of new voters to the White House, it will defy common political wisdom that successful voter registration doesn't translate to changing the electorate.

"There are a sizable number of newly registered voters out there, but no one knows who they're going to vote for," Newman said.

Additionally, filling out a voter registration card doesn't always translate to a vote on Election Day.

"Just because someone is presented with an opportunity to register, that doesn't always translate into a vote," Newman said. "If the lines are long, if it's hard to get into vote, they might not go through the effort."

Calling polls "a snapshot in time," Hildebrand said the campaign is unwilling to cede Georgia to McCain.

"It's a very important state for us," he said. "I say this very often that Barack and Michelle owe a very positive start to their campaign by how welcomed they were here in Georgia. From day one there were 20,000 who showed up at that rally [in April 2007 at Georgia Tech], we had amazing fundraising coming out of this state, we've dwarfed John McCain."

If the Obama campaign can capitalize on those resources, the gay vote could make a difference.

"The Atlanta metro area has the third largest LGBT community in the nation," Thornton said. "With a voter block estimated between 280,000 and 300,000, we certainly have the ability state wide to encourage the state to go blue."

Gay man flies under radar as major mover and shaker in Obama's campaign

By MATT SCHAFER
mschafer@sovo.com

Steve Hildebrand (Photo courtesy Hildebrand)

Steve Hildebrand has the opportunity to become one of the highest-ranking openly gay members of a presidential administration if Sen. Barack Obama is elected this year.

Hildebrand has been with the campaign since before it officially formed, and currently serves as deputy national campaign manager.

"I was the Kool-Aid drinker from the beginning," Hildebrand said, smiling during a recent trip to Atlanta.

Hildebrand grew up in a small South Dakota city best known for the Mitchell Corn Palace. He wears his graying hair in a buzz cut, and admits to feeling unfashionable at some of the campaign's more trendy events. He doesn't enjoy talking about himself and hates having his picture taken.

Hildebrand started in politics working for Democrats in western states. Quickly earning praise for his field operations skills, he ran the Gore Iowa Caucus campaign in 2000 and managed campaigns for Sen. Tom Daschle and Sen. Tim Johnson in his home state. He was also one of the first to talk about an Obama presidency.

"I was the one who was literally emailing 300 people Barack Obama clips every day for months, driving people crazy," he said. "I then got connected with him and had a long series of meetings around a conference table trying to make sure that this made any sense."

During those meetings Hildebrand and other close advisers addressed issues from mock schedules to fundraising goals and position papers. After days of discussion everyone was asked for an opinion on whether Obama should seek the presidency.

"I went first, it was a no brainer. I said, 'I can't say what's right for you, but I can say what's right for the country,'" Hildebrand said. "So he did it, not because I drank the Kool-Aid, but because he and Michelle felt it was the right thing for the country."

Unlike many openly gay campaign workers who often focus on gay issues, Hildebrand has worked on building the campaign's infrastructure, overseeing state operations.

"I really wasn't involved in the GLBT stuff until the Donnie McClurkin episode," he said referring to controversy over an ex-gay gospel singer who performed at an Obama event. Obama released a statement denouncing efforts to change sexual orientation and added a gay pastor to the event, but declined to dump McClurkin.

"I had had a good conversation with Barack and Michelle to get a good sense of where they were at because my relationship with them is very new, and his time in public life is pretty new. I wanted to make sure that he was someone who would fight for people like us."

Male? Female? Yes. No. Maybe.

Transgender identities cross a fluid spectrum, causing confusion for some, freedom for others

By DYANA BAGBY
dbagby@sovo.com

Cole Thaler is a gay man. But, he explained, he was "assigned female at birth."

Confused?

Many people who fall into the traditional gender binary of male or female, including gay men and lesbians, acknowledge they sometimes can't quite grasp the wide variety of gender identifications included in the so-called "LGBT" community.

Thaler, 31, lives in Atlanta and serves as the transgender rights attorney for Lambda Legal. He said he understands there can be confusion, but the best way to understand how people identify is to accept people as who they say they are.

Thaler stressed he didn't have the "classic" transgender experience people hear about, where a person knew as soon as they could think that they were born in the wrong body. For him, and others, identifying as transgender was a gradual process.

"I was assigned female at birth, but as an adult I felt 'not female,'" he said. "But I was unclear how to be my true self.

"When I came out as transgender in law school [at Northeastern University School of Law in Boston, Mass.], I was lucky to come out with a wide range of identities around me — I knew there were large numbers and space between or beyond the binary," he said. "This allowed me the space and time to find the identity that was right for me."

Thaler said when he first came out as transgender, he identified as "genderqueer" and declined to take on a male or female identity. But after he graduated and entered the work force, people began identifying him as male and he started thinking and functioning as a man.

"This started solidifying my identity as a male," he said.

'ENOUGH BOXES' Transgender — an umbrella term for people who don't fit into the established gender roles set up by mainstream society — is often the word used to describe cross dressers, post-operative transsexuals, people transitioning from male to female and those transitioning from female to male.

And then there are so many others, including effeminate gay men and masculine lesbians who may not actually identify as transgender.

Kate Bornstein, 60, a leading transgender activist, said identity is about living to your heart's content while also respecting how others choose to identify themselves. (Photo by Casey Morgan)

"Anyone who is gender variant can fit under the transgender umbrella," said Cat Turner, business manager for the Southern Comfort Conference, the largest transgender conference in the nation, held annually in Atlanta. This year's conference, with the theme "Celebrate Life," is set for Sept. 30-Oct. 5.

"I firmly believe we have enough boxes to start with," said Turner, who said if asked to pick a label, then genderqueer is the "box" to check.

"A lot of people ask my friends, 'What is Cat?' And they say, 'Cat's just Cat.' We tend in this society to put people on a specific space on a spectrum, but sometimes I wake up feeling more feminine and others I wake up feeling more masculine. We all slide along this scale."

More and more young people are casting aside the gender binary, Turner added, and simply identifying as queer or genderqueer. By taking on the label genderqueer, they don't specifically identify as male or female.

"The youth ... are not concerned with trans, gay, straight, bisexual — they have so much more freedom of expression than when I was their age," Turner said. "Their inner being is so strong, they demand to be able to be who they are."

This year's Southern Comfort Conference includes the second annual Career Expo, numerous workshops, and a new people of color reception, something Turner said the organization has been working on for awhile as more black transmen come out.

Turner expects close to 1,000 to attend over the long weekend of events; the conference consistently shows that nearly 40 percent of attendees are newcomers.

GENDERQUEER REVOLUTION? For Atlantan Jae Cripe, 21, genderqueer is a label mostly taken on by privileged people in academic settings.

"A lot of my peers identify as genderqueer, but what I've observed is that many who do [identify as genderqueer] come from colleges and live a very privileged life. This term comes out from people immersed in academics where they have access to that language and theory," he said, but noted not all genderqueer people come from such a background.

After experimenting with how to label his identity, such as genderqueer, Cripe realized he is simply a young man.

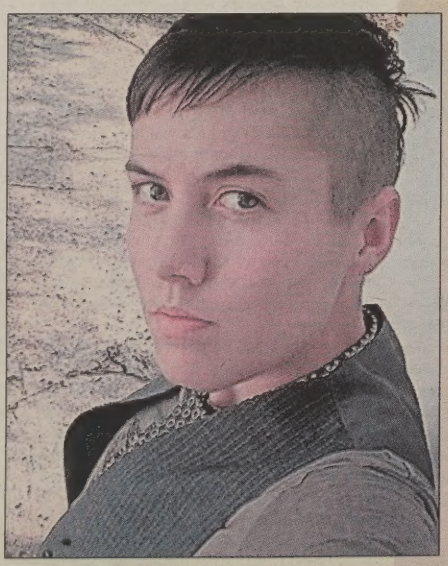
"I have a binary identity, my gender is a man. But my sexuality is queer," he said.

Cripe grew up a "very unusual girl" and came out as transgender at 16 after meeting another trans person and realizing this is where his identity best fit.

"I used to go by 'tranny boi,' but those words make it like my gender is childlike," said Cripe, who has been on testosterone for two months and hopes to have surgery on his chest in the near future. "Tranny is also a pejorative term, especially for trans women. It's like if a rich person pretends they are poor."

Author, playwright and performance artist Kate Bornstein wrote the book "Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women and the Rest of Us," published in 1995. Bornstein said it's actually OK to identify as what you are not.

Please see **TRANS** on **Page 7**



Atlantan **Jae Cripe**, 21, said while his gender identity is male, his sexuality is queer, meaning he dates people including gay men and femme women. (Photo courtesy Cripe)

Nation's largest trans conference comes to ATL

Southern Comfort Conference
Sept. 29-Oct. 5
Crowne Plaza Ravinia
4355 Ashford Dunwoody
770-395-7700
www.sccatl.org

This schedule includes some highlights of the annual Southern Comfort Conference. A marketplace and additional seminars and workshops also take place in many time slots.

Sept. 29
7 p.m. to 11 p.m. — Informal reception

Oct. 1
8 a.m. to noon — Registration

Oct. 2
9 a.m. – 6 p.m. — Robert Eads Health Project
9 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. — Seminar: Being Transgender on Campus
9 a.m. to 10:25 a.m. — Seminar: Transgender and Workplace, Learned Attributes
10:35 a.m. to noon — Gender Identity and Changing Discrimination Laws
5 p.m. to 6 p.m. — Newcomer's reception
7 p.m. to 1 a.m. — Transmen's welcome party

Oct. 3
9:30 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. — Career expo
10:35 a.m. to noon — Intersexed People
10:35 a.m. to noon — Female to Male Gender Reconstruction Surgery
2 p.m. to 3:25 p.m. — Trans People of Color
3:35 p.m. to 5 p.m. — Punk and Queer: Negotiations of Queer Identities as Members of Subcultures
3:35 p.m. to 5 p.m. — The Total Feminization Plan
3 p.m. to 6 p.m. — People of color reception
10:30 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. — "SOCO-A-GOGO" with live entertainment

Oct. 4
10:35 a.m. to noon — Kids of Trans panel
Noon -1:45 p.m. — lunch featuring speakers Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality; and Donna Rose, transgender activist
3 p.m. to 5 p.m. — NCTE Reception
5 p.m. – 6 p.m. — Screening of "Still Black," a documentary of black transmen
8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. — performance by Jade Esteban Estrada

Oct. 5
10 a.m. – noon — Wrap-up meeting

Language evolves to accommodate gender identity

TRANS, Continued from **Page 6**

"I don't identify either/or but I live girl to the max," Bornstein said. "I'm not-man, not-woman."

Bornstein's website makes use of gender-neutral pronouns such as "ze" and "hir" that some trans people use.

"I use those with the chief purpose of mischief," Bornstein said, laughing.

But when it comes to filling out tax forms, even Bornstein admits she must follow the rules and checks "female."

When someone meets someone who they are unsure how they identify, it's really fine to simply ask what pronoun, if any, that person prefers, Bornstein said.

"Asking is the most important. Don't assume," Bornstein said. "And it's also the most important thing to remember to respect. I have a weird definition of myself compared to others. It's OK to define what I am not, because I'm nothing I've seen before. And it's up to you to live your heart's desire."

Bornstein, whose newest book, "Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Suicide for Teens, Freaks and Other Outlaws" continues the discussion on varying identities, will be in Atlanta as the keynote speaker for the second annual Atlanta Queer Literary Festival on Oct. 17. Bornstein will also give a presentation at Emory University on the same day as part of the college's celebration of Gay History Month.

The genderqueer revolution is fairly new, said Bornstein, who is 60. But "Gender Outlaw" likely inspired many trans activists to throw away the traditional binary male/female boxes.

"Now there is a whole generation of people living that to the max ... they've made that book old," said Bornstein.

What about possible friction within the transgender community itself on how to identify? Some people, she said, don't want to identify as transgender because while they may have been assigned a certain gender at birth, they do not believe they were ever that gender.

"And that needs to be respected, too," Bornstein said.

RECOGNIZING A THIRD GENDER

How a person identifies really comes down to a cliché answer, said Gayle Salamon, an assistant professor of English at Princeton University who has written extensively on transgender theory.

"It depends," she said. "It depends on local practices, the local community."

Salamon, who identifies as queer, was Princeton's first LGBT Cotsen Fellow. She said it's the queer community where language can often evolve on gender.

"For example, gay men calling each other girls," she said. "Queer seems to be a special case — it's not a specific designator of gender identity or sexuality. There's a certain ambiguity to it. Some trans people embrace that."

But for some trans people, being identified as transgender is similar to being outed, she added. And so how a person identifies is often a political and personal choice.

Transgender people also have a more serious reason for wanting to remain stealth, or keep their past identity secret, because of the astronomical violence they face, Salamon added.

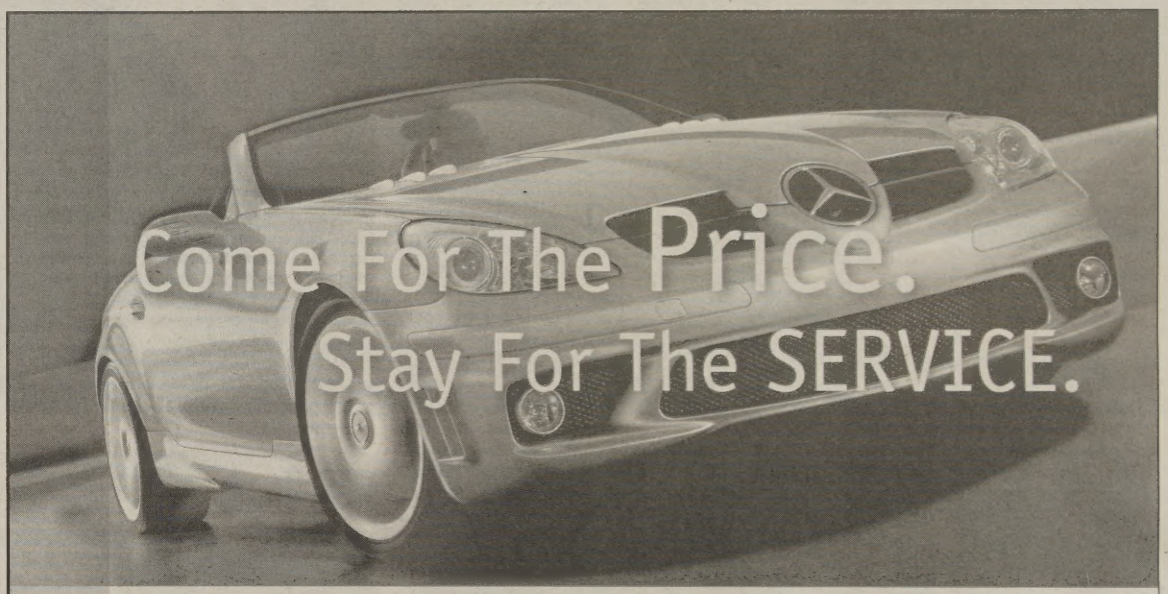
Cripe, the young man from Atlanta, said that he does wish one day for some people to not know he is transgender, such as in the workplace and with different social circles.

"I have an unusual medical history for a guy," he said. "I don't consider my body female. I do know I will probably want to be stealth other than with close friends or any partner I have. There is a lot of hate for transmen, and so I know why guys don't want to have to go through all the trouble all the time. Sometimes I don't think people need to know."

And for Thaler, the Lambda Legal attorney, he hopes one day the U.S. picks up on what other countries are offering on documents such as passports — an option for a third gender. On Sept. 20, the New York Times had an extensive piece on a gay Nepal activist working to include a third gender within the country's population, such as what South Africa already has.

"The law here only recognizes men or women. We are very binary or at least there is not a lot of wiggle room, but we are moving in that direction," Thaler said of a classification of a third gender.

"I'll hear of another country that is putting a third gender marker on passports and I suspect our courts here will catch up to what society already knows," he said. "We're going there."



If your Mercedes-Benz needs servicing, there are so many reasons to try Atlanta Classic Cars.

- Mercedes-Benz authorized, factory trained technicians
- Servicing at very competitive prices
- Use of Mercedes-Benz original equipment parts
- Mercedes-Benz courtesy loaner car program
- Owned and operated on-site collision center
- Customer Parts Department
- Full Vehicle Detail Center
- Complimentary Car Wash with every service

And, while you're here, take advantage of our free amenities including a Wi-Fi lounge, movie passes, fitness center, putting green and more.

Schedule your service appointment online at **www.atlantaclassiccars.com.** Or call **770-279-3600** now for a convenient appointment.

ATLANTA CLASSIC CARS

LIKE NO OTHER CAR. LIKE NO OTHER DEALERSHIP.

Mercedes-Benz

1705 BOGGS ROAD, DULUTH, GA 30096 • 770-279-3600 • WWW.ATLANTACLASSICCARS.COM

(Take 1-85 N. to exit 105. Follow signs to Boggs Road.)

Ga. budget cuts may impact federal AIDS funding

State could lose millions due to $1.2 million cut in ADAP, unspent salaries

By RYAN LEE
rlee@sovo.com

Statewide budget cuts ordered by Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue may put the Department of Human Resources' HIV unit at risk for losing more federal funding next year, according to local AIDS activists and DHR employees.

In order to account for a $1.6 billion shortfall in state revenues, the governor last month ordered all state agencies to submit proposals to reduce their budgets for fiscal year 2009 — which runs from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 — by at least 6 percent. Perdue also asked agencies to compile revised budgets that include 8 and 10 percent budget cuts, in case the state needs to trim more from its original $21.1 billion budget.

"At this time, 6 percent cuts have been made and resulted in furloughs, travel restrictions, [a] hiring freeze and limits on equipment purchases," DHR spokesperson Taka Wiley said in a prepared statement. "All HIV Care contracts that receive state dollars have been cut by 1 percent."

> 'It doesn't save the state any money when they furlough employees who are paid by federal dollars.'
> — *Anonymous DHR employee*

The DHR budget reductions mean that all employees within the department that earn an annual salary of $35,569 — including DHR Commissioner B.J. Walker — are being furloughed one day every month for the rest of the fiscal year, Wiley said.

At least a dozen employees with the HIV unit will be affected by the furloughs, although critics said that their unpaid absence from work is unlikely to help Georgia reduce its budget shortfall, and may put the state at risk of losing federal funding next year.

"The obvious thing is it doesn't save the state any money when they furlough employees who are paid by federal dollars," said an employee in the HIV unit, who requested anonymity fearing retribution for speaking out against the proposed budget cuts.

"There's no way we could do a 6 percent cut in our department," the employee said, adding that the state contributes "a minute amount" to the HIV unit's programs and salaries. "Taking that big of a cut is going to take away federal dollars."

'STRATEGIC' CUTS MADE?

Some $50 million in federal funding makes up 75 percent of the HIV unit's $67 million budget for this fiscal year, with the state contributing $17 million, or 25 percent, said DHR spokesperson Belen Moran.

A Perdue spokesperson said all state agencies are "trying to make the cuts as strategically and surgically" as possible, but added that it will be hard to avoid impacting federal dollars in cuts throughout DHR's various divisions.

"That's very difficult because most of their programs do have some federal participation and federal match in them," said Bert Brantley, Perdue's press secretary.

"All of the cuts will have some impact, and we know that," Brantley said, adding that agencies are prioritizing things that urgently need funding and "putting things off that we can until a future date."

The DHR Board of Directors has already approved the proposed furloughs and other cutbacks in the HIV unit; governing boards for other state agencies have also completed their 6, 8 and 10 percent budget cut proposals, which will be reviewed by Perdue and the Office of Planning & Budget, Brantley said.

A final revised budget won't be complete until this spring when approved by the Georgia Legislature, Brantley said. But by that time, agencies that used furloughs to reduce their budgets will have already cut their employees' salaries.

Budget cuts ordered by Gov. **Sonny Perdue** have resulted in employee furloughs at the state's HIV unit, which some believe puts federal funding at risk. (File photo)

"Agencies that have decided on those kinds of decisions, most of those will probably start happening much sooner," Brantley said.

UNSPENT FEDERAL FUNDS

If federal dollars are included in budget cuts within Georgia's HIV unit, it may put the state at risk for losing money next year due to changes made during the reauthorization of the federal Ryan White CARE Act in 2006.

"One of the changes is that states cannot carry over more than 2 percent of their funds," said AIDS activist Jeff Graham, who is also executive director of the gay rights group Georgia Equality.

At least a dozen employees in the HIV unit are facing furloughs, and if their furloughed salaries, hiring freezes and other reductions amount to 2 percent of the unit's budget, the money returns to the federal funders, Graham said. That money is also removed from the federal allocation to Georgia in the 2010 fiscal year, Graham said.

"There's no savings [to the state], just losses," Graham said.

Future funding reductions in Georgia's fight against HIV would come "at a time when we are desperate to begin with," the HIV unit employee said.

AID Atlanta Executive Director Tracy Elliott agreed.

"We just found out the epidemic is much worse than we knew," Elliott said. "At that same moment is not when the state needs to back off of the fight."

The DHR furloughs are scheduled to begin immediately, but Graham said he believes DHR leaders still have time to reevaluate their decisions and make sure federal HIV dollars are not put at risk.

"I believe that this is something DHR has within their purview to prevent from happening," he said.

ADAP MAY FACE CUTS

In the 10 percent budget reduction DHR submitted to Perdue, the agency recommended a $1.2 million reduction in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, which would trigger a loss of federal matching funds. But it also means that some people would be eliminated from the program that provides drugs to those who cannot afford them.

"They will get sick, and they will have to go to Grady or somewhere else, and be brought back to health at a significantly greater cost than what we save," Elliott said, calling this a "best-case scenario." "These are really dollars that are spent to save dollars down the road."

AIDS activists and DHR employees have months to try to make sure ADAP is untouched by budget cuts, but Elliott said he is "not tremendously optimistic at the moment."

DHR officials are proceeding with the 6 percent budget reduction plan, but are uncertain whether Perdue will ask for more cuts.

"Again, at this time, we have limited information about which budget reduction scenario will be approved for DHR," Wiley said.

GONE OUT OF BUSINESS SALE
Major ILLINOIS distributor closes its doors. Beautiful grand and console pianos purchased. As low as 32 CENTS on the dollar.
SAVE LIKE NEVER BEFORE!
SAVE UP TO 50% HUGE NEW PURCHASE
BIGGEST SALE EVER!
1610 NE Expressway I-85 Exit 81 on Clairmont Rd. to Access Rd., Southbound
COOPER MUSIC The Next 100 Years
404-329-1663
www.cooperpiano.com

Be an A Lister
Go to sovo.com and sign up to receive weekly updates, latest news, events, exclusive invitations and more.

Scooter Superstore OF AMERICA, INC
Vespa
Griso 8V
CA Vintage
Norge 1200
PIAGGIO
MP3
Fly 50/150
PX 150
S 150
LXV 150
GTS 250
BV 250
BV 500
MP3 250 / 400 / 500
aprilia
Sport City
SR50 Factory
Scarabeo 100/ 200 / 500
Shiver 750
RSV 1000
Tuono 1000
Vespa Atlanta
Norcross • Midtown • Fairburn
SCOOTER SUPERSTORE OF AMERICA, Inc. · www.sstam.com
NORCROSS ATLANTA • 678.417.6447 • www.vespaatlanta.com
MIDTOWN ATLANTA · 404.350.8388 • www.vespamidtown.com
FAIRBURN ATLANTA • 770.486.9888 • www.vespapeachtreecity.com
LARGE SELECTION OF RIDING GEAR & ACCESSORIES
© Scooter Superstore of America Inc. 2008. Obey local traffic safety laws and always wear a helmet, appropriate eyewear and proper apparel.
© Piaggio Group Americas, Inc. 2008. Piaggio® is a U.S. and worldwide registered trademark of the Piaggio Group of companies.

LEARN GERMAN
...to order your German Bier at our 3rd Annual Oktoberfest Atlanta
Oct. 10-11, 2008
Oktoberfest ATLANTA
Register for classes at the German Cultural Center
Sept. 29-Dec. 13, 2008
info@german-institute.org
404-892-2388
Goethe Zentrum
German Cultural Center
www.goethe.de/atlanta • www.oktoberfestatlanta.com

Discover
the most extensive marketing plan in the business
+ Internet Marketing on over 500 Websites
+ Bi-Weekly Seller Reports with Statistics
+ Print Advertising
+ Instant Agent Feedback through Interactive Website
+ Professional Photography
+ Staging Expertise with additional Furnishings Available
+ Direct e-mail Marketing to over 2,000 Agents
+ Virtual Tours
+ Patti offers over 32 years of Experience
+ Adam featured as Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles "Top 20 Under 40"
+ Atlanta Realtor for HGTV's National Open House
HARRY NORMAN REALTORS Since 1930
Equal Housing Opportunity
Intown Office | 1531 Piedmont Road | 404.897.5558 | www.harrynorman.com
teamellis
Patti Ellis & Adam Ellis
770.366.4658
View our video at
www.teamellis.biz

'Alliance' takes novel approach to lesbian health, community

Assess health online; find support in your neighborhood

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN
lbrown@sovo.com

The crowds who turn out Oct. 12 for the Atlanta Lesbian Health Initiative's annual Fall Garden Party will get more than an afternoon of fun and fundraising. They will also be treated to the first glimpse of an online health assessment and networking tool that leaders of two of the city's top lesbian organizations hope will revolutionize their thinking about not only physical health, but how to build healthy communities.

The web-based health survey was developed with help from volunteers with the CDC, and if successful, it could become a model for gay organizations around the country. It will allow participants — not limited just to lesbians, but with a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender focus — to answer basic questions about themselves and then receive a personalized health assessment.

By providing their zip code, participants will also have the chance to link to social networking groups, and eventually find gay-friendly physicians in their own areas.

"The experience of health is intimately tied to social support networks," said Linda Ellis, executive director of the Health Initiative. "We know that you can't sustain health without support."

NEW LESBIAN 'ALLIANCE'

The link between online information and nearby social and support opportunities comes through a new venture between ALHI and Fourth Tuesday, which has provided networking for local lesbians for more than two decades.

At ALHI, "they have a health focus, while we have always been a social and networking group," said Shirley Adams, who co-chairs Fourth Tuesday with Jo Giraudo. "To pull all of that together, we want to recognize that part of health is fun — it's being connected to this wonderful world we are in."

Dubbed an "alliance" by leaders of both groups, the relationship will allow the organizations to keep their individual identities, while sharing information, website links, and other resources.

More specifically, it means women who participate in ALHI's online health assessment can be linked with Fourth Tuesday's growing network of chapters "outside the Perimeter" — a new way of thinking for gay organizations that once assumed their audience was entirely in-town.

"Where we are heading is that when you call in and let us know that you or your partner have been diagnosed with something, we will be able to link you with a network of women who actually live in your area," ALHI's Ellis said. "It makes more sense than when you call from north of Atlanta needing a ride to the doctor, and me working from [our office in] Candler Park to try to do that."

It also means that the more than 500 women who have already joined Fourth Tuesday's outlying chapters, and the more than 1,000 members of their Yahoo group, will have a more organized way to access health information that speaks directly to them as lesbians.

"We feel that the mind and the spirit are enriched and healthier by having a support structure," said Giraudo, the other Fourth Tuesday co-chair. "We want to help people get connected, which will help you through the good times and the bad times."

BEYOND THE PERIMETER

The alliance between the Health Initiative and Fourth Tuesday officially got underway this month. With the help of a grant from the Lloyd Russell Foundation, Adams joined ALHI's staff as the part-time ALHI-Fourth Tuesday transition coordinator. And on Sept. 15, Giraudo and Fourth Tuesday Northwest chapter leader Mary Helen Martin officially joined ALHI's board of directors.

The decision to work together came as both organizations grappled with how to be more effective during a period of rapid change for lesbians and gay men in Atlanta.

At the same time that the internet has revolutionized how people find support and make connections, the area's gay population has spread out from "inside the Perimeter" locations like Midtown and Decatur as people feel more comfortable outside the city.

"We knew that whatever we did next would have to involve a strong and more active web presence," Ellis said. "We also realized that rather than try to create programs in our office and convince women to come there, what we wanted to do is look at how we can take our programming and support to where the community actually lives now."

Fourth Tuesday leaders were having the same conversations on their own.

"We really were not using the internet well," Adams said. "It was a great way to connect women, and it caught on so beautifully that we decided to strengthen our social network through the internet — to keep our in-town connections strong, as well as give women who live outside the Perimeter the same opportunities to get together."

The experiment began with Fourth Tuesday's now highly successful North chapter, according to Giraudo. Four more chapters blossomed, including groups for the

Please see **ALLIANCE** on **Page 20**

Fourth Tuesday board members and chapter leaders met over the summer to discuss creating an alliance between their social group and the Atlanta Lesbian Health Initiative. (Photo by Jan Suchomski / courtesy Fourth Tuesday)

Party with a new purpose

The Atlanta Lesbian Health Initiative hosts its 13th annual Fall Garden Party on Oct. 12, and attendees can expect a new look for the popular event.

The party comes as ALHI retools its strategy for events, in part to make better use of its new "alliance" with lesbian networking group Fourth Tuesday.

"We had tried to make it both our largest fundraiser and our largest outreach event, all at the same time," said ALHI Executive Director Linda Ellis. "I actually think we were too successful. The party got so large that I don't think we were doing the best job of either."

As the crowds grew, donations per person dropped and it became more difficult to share ALHI's mission and services with everyone in attendance, leading to ALHI's new strategy of offering multiple, smaller events throughout the year.

Instead of a donations-at-the-door affair for more than 1,000, ALHI has updated the Garden Party to an upscale, ticketed fundraiser that expects about 300 attendees.

Hosted by at the new Peasant Bistro near Centennial Park, the party includes food, beverages and entertainment by Kristen Hope Justice.

A silent auction gives opportunities to shop for the cause, and a $20 raffle offers a chance to win a seven-night stay in a luxury villa in Costa Rica, plus airfare for two on Delta Airlines.

The event also includes the presentation of ALHI's 2008 Healing Angel Award, given each year in memory of ALHI founder Dennie Doucher, who passed away from breast cancer.

This year's award goes to Anne "Sarge" Barr, founder of the Decatur Women's Sports League. After expenses, all proceeds from the league go to ALHI; donations already total $8,000, Ellis said.

As important, the sports league echoes ALHI's mission by giving Atlanta lesbians an opportunity to exercise and build community in a friendly, accepting atmosphere, Ellis said.

"Anne has almost single-handedly provided a space for hundreds of women in our community to get up and get active and be connected to each other, and that is by definition what we hope to do as the Health Initiative," Ellis said.

With the Garden Party as its major fundraiser, ALHI will also partner with Fourth Tuesday to offer the more "mid-range" priced Spring Fling, and will host a lesbian burlesque to a younger, late night audience.

0% APR on Remaining 2008 Volkswagens or Up to $10,000 Off*

*0% available on all new 2008 new VWs, with approved credit through VCI. Cannot be combined with other offers. Expires 09/30/08.

2008 VW Beetle

JIM Ellis Expect the best VOLKSWAGEN

5091 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. • Chamblee, GA 30341 • www.jimellis.com • 770.458.6811

DIALOG IN THE DARK

YOUR SENSES WILL NEVER BE THE SAME

DIALOG IN THE DARK is a ground-breaking Exhibition where blind or visually impaired guides take you on a life-changing journey. Already experienced by millions of people around the world, DIALOG IN THE DARK is making its U.S. debut in Atlantic Station.

Hailed as one of the most successful social enterprises in the world, this truly remarkable experience replicates familiar everyday environments, while challenging individuals to perform tasks in total darkness.

NOW OPEN IN ATLANTIC STATION!
Reservations Recommended.

DialogTickets.com • 866-866-8265

GROUP TICKETS
For Groups of 10+ please call 404-881-2000, or email foxgroup@foxtheatre.org.

ATLANTIC STATION
265 18th Street, Atlanta, GA 30363
Across from Publix, Atlantic Drive
Second Floor, Elevator (5)

Manpower DIALOGUE PREMIER EXHIBITIONS

$5.00 OFF

To receive $5 off Adult Admission, please use Code: SOVO when ordering online, or present this flyer at the DIALOG IN THE DARK Box Office.
Offer valid through October 31st, 2008.
Limit 4 tickets per coupon.

$30,000 Shopping Spree*

DAVIS OAKS

From the mid $400's

DARE TO COMPARE!

An Urban Conservation Community in the Heart of Historic Oak Grove

- ***MINUTES*** to Emory, CDC, Midtown, Buckhead
- ***WALK*** to Eclectic Shops and Eateries
- ***RELAX*** with coffee on screened porch off kitchen & owner's suite
- ***WIND DOWN*** on your own Wildlife Habitat nature trail/dog walk
- ***PARTY*** and ***ENTERTAIN*** on the spacious cypress pavilion with grill
- Take a ***RIDE*** on your Luxury Elevator
- ***COMPARE***...Have it all - Largest plans; Luxury; Quality Builder
- ***SAVE*** $50k to $100k on comparable properties
- ***TAILOR MADE*** homes to your specifications within 45-60 days

404.634.1470

Directions: From downtown Atlanta, take I-85 North to Exit 91, (Clairmont Road). Right at ramp, toward Emory. Left on Lavista Road, Davis Oaks is approx. .5 miles on the left. Sales Office: Turn on Alderbrook to entrance.

Located at: 2746 Lavista Road Decatur, GA 30033

RICHPORT PROPERTIES
Simply Building Confidence

Information is believed to be accurate but is not warranted and is subject to errors, omissions, prior sales and withdrawals. *See agent for details.

CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL HOME BUILDER OF GEORGIA

www.DavisOaks.com

aGLCC
Atlanta Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

THE ATLANTA GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (AGLCC) IS PROUD TO PRESENT

YOUR 2008 COMMUNITY EXPO AND JOB FAIR

Culture
Fitness
travel
PRIZES
deejay
Cash Bar
entertainment

Sunday, October 5th
1 – 5 pm
The Atlanta History Center in Buckhead

Get ready for the biggest GLBT Expo in the South! We know the best places to eat, work and shop. *Come find out for yourself.*

Exhibitors already signed on include:
Brown Forman ■ Prudential ■ HLM Financial Group ■ Cox Enterprises
Southern Voice ■ New Face Dentistry & Skin Med Spa ■ Ameriprise Financial
Feast Restaurant ■ Chima ■ Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau
Feminist Women's Heath Center ■ PAWS Atlanta and many more!

Tickets are $5 at the door or download coupon for free admission at:
www.AtlantaGayChamber.org

Piedmont Park a possibility for Atlanta Pride

Lottery could divide large festivals among five city parks

By MATT SCHAFER
mschafer@sovo.com

Officials with the city of Atlanta have decided that one Class A festival can return to Piedmont Park in 2009, but they are giving the leaders of the five largest festivals until Oct. 3 to decide which one before facing a possible lottery.

On Sept. 23, the leaders of Atlanta Pride, the Dogwood Festival and the Peachtree Road Race met with the city to propose a compromise, only to be met with a city proposal.

"What we had proposed is to not count the Peachtree Road Race as Class A since they are literally out there four hours, have Dogwood in May and move Pride to October, but that got shut down," Atlanta Pride Committee Chair Deirdre Heffernan said.

Instead, the city floated its own proposal to move each festival to a different park, offering five parks for the three independent festivals and the city's Screen on the Green and Atlanta Jazz Festival to choose from. Each park can support one major festival under the current drought conditions, according to the city.

"It would be our hope that all festivals can be in a different park. It would not be possible for all festivals to return to one park," said Dianne Harnell Cohen, commissioner of Atlanta's Department of Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs.

She noted the terms of the agreement are temporary and would not affect 2010 and beyond. "It is not possible to return all five festivals under a level four drought condition," she said.

Harnell Cohen would not verify which parks are being negotiated for, or how the talks between the five organizations are being carried out.

Both Heffernan and Dogwood Festival Executive Director Brian Hill said they are negotiating with the other festivals to avoid an Oct. 3 lottery that would assign the parks. Tracey Russell, executive director of the Atlanta Track Club, organizer of the Peachtree Road Race, said there would be a meeting of her board on Sept. 24. She declined further comment.

After being barred from its traditional home in Piedmont Park in January because of drought concerns, Pride lost more than $160,000 in 2008 in the scramble to find a new venue and line up sponsors on short notice. Organizers credit the late timing, rather than its location at the Atlanta Civic Center over July 4th weekend, for the losses. The Dogwood Festival, which relocated to the Lenox Mall parking lot this year, also suffered significant financial losses.

'RUSSIAN ROULETTE'?

Both Pride and Dogwood have incentive to avoid a lottery, as at least two of the five parks are not suitable for their events.

Although the city declined to name which parks could be used, the directors confirmed Piedmont Park; Grant Park near Zoo Atlanta; Mozely Park, west of downtown on Martin Luther King Jr.; Woodruff Park in downtown; and Central Park near the Atlanta Civic Center are all on the table. Freedom Park is not available because the city has leased the land from the state Department of Transportation, and conditions of the lease would prohibit an outdoor festival, according to Parks Director Ken Gillett.

It may come down to luck of the draw whether Atlanta Pride can return to its longtime home in Piedmont Park for 2009. (Photo by Bo Shell)

"In essence it feels like Russian roulette with only one out of the five chambers unloaded, because if you don't get that one chamber with Piedmont Park you're in a bad spot," Hill said.

The negotiations are structured so if one organization settles on one of the other four parks, it signs a contract for that venue, removing itself, and that venue from a lottery.

Heffernan said all five directors are not working to pressure each other to take venues other than Piedmont Park.

"At the meeting today there was no animosity, we all recognize there that we are in a tough spot," she said Sept. 23.

Piedmont, Grant and Central Park would all work for Pride, but the others are too small, Heffernan said. Hill said Central would not work for the Dogwood Festival because of a date conflict at the Civic Center.

"We're not trying to be difficult, but like Pride, we need to rebound from a weak year," he said. "Whatever happens, you're going to have four disappointed events."

Pride organizers have said they will announce a venue on or before National Coming Out day on Oct. 11.

"I'm thinking that after our meeting next Friday we should know where we're going to be, unless we end up with something unbearable in the lottery and we have to go to something else," Heffernan said.

SO VO SOUTHERN VOICE

ATLANTA NEWS BRIEFS

Dine out to help Atlanta Pride

Rich Chey, the owner of Home Grown Restaurant Concepts, is encouraging people to dine out for Atlanta Pride.

On each Tuesday in October, four of the group's restaurants will donate 15 percent of their proceeds from lunch and dinner to the Atlanta Pride Committee to help it build for next year's festival.

"We had read part of the post mortem, and saw what kind of situation they were in and how it could affect future festivals, so we called up and asked, 'hey, how can we get involved?'" Chey said

Osteria 832 will start the dine out on Oct. 8, followed by Doc Chey's Noodle House in Emory on Oct. 15. Stella Neighborhood Trattoria will participate Oct. 22 and the final dine out event for Atlanta Pride will be at Doc Chey's in Virginia Highland on Oct. 29. A member of Atlanta Pride will be on hand each night to get feedback and collect ideas for the 2009 event.

For Chey, the dine out fundraiser is a way to not only support Atlanta Pride, but to involve the many gay employees, managers and part owner who work for Home Grown.

Osteria 832 hosts the first Dine Out for Atlanta Pride event on Oct. 8. (Photo from www.osteria832.com)

"We have a lot of employees who are gay, and a lot of them are very involved in the Pride festival," Chey said. "In past years we had booths there and this year we were in the parade."

He said the dine outs will hopefully raise between $25,000 and $35,000 for Pride, which had a $160,000 shortfall after this year's festival was booted from Piedmont Park by the city due to drought concerns.

Atlanta Pride is also soliciting ideas for fundraisers through its website at atlantapride.org

— Matt Schafer

YouthPride to offer advice to prospective foster parents

In an effort to recruit more gay-friendly foster homes, YouthPride hosts an informational session for prospective parents and mentors Oct. 2.

Coming out is a difficult time for most teenagers, but teens in the foster care system are at an even higher risk of losing their homes, said Tana Hall, YouthPride's director of counseling services.

"They're getting kicked out of their foster homes when they come out, that's the bottom line," she said. "Not all, but some."

The two-hour event is an informal session aimed at foster parents or prospective foster parents, both gay and straight. Experts will be on hand from the Multi-Agency Alliance for Children to answer questions and Hall said she is working to have members of YouthPride available to share their stories.

"This is an informational session. We want to talk about the general process of fostering children," Hall said. "We also want to talk about mentoring these children who may be gay or not, but need to have a positive out person in their lives."

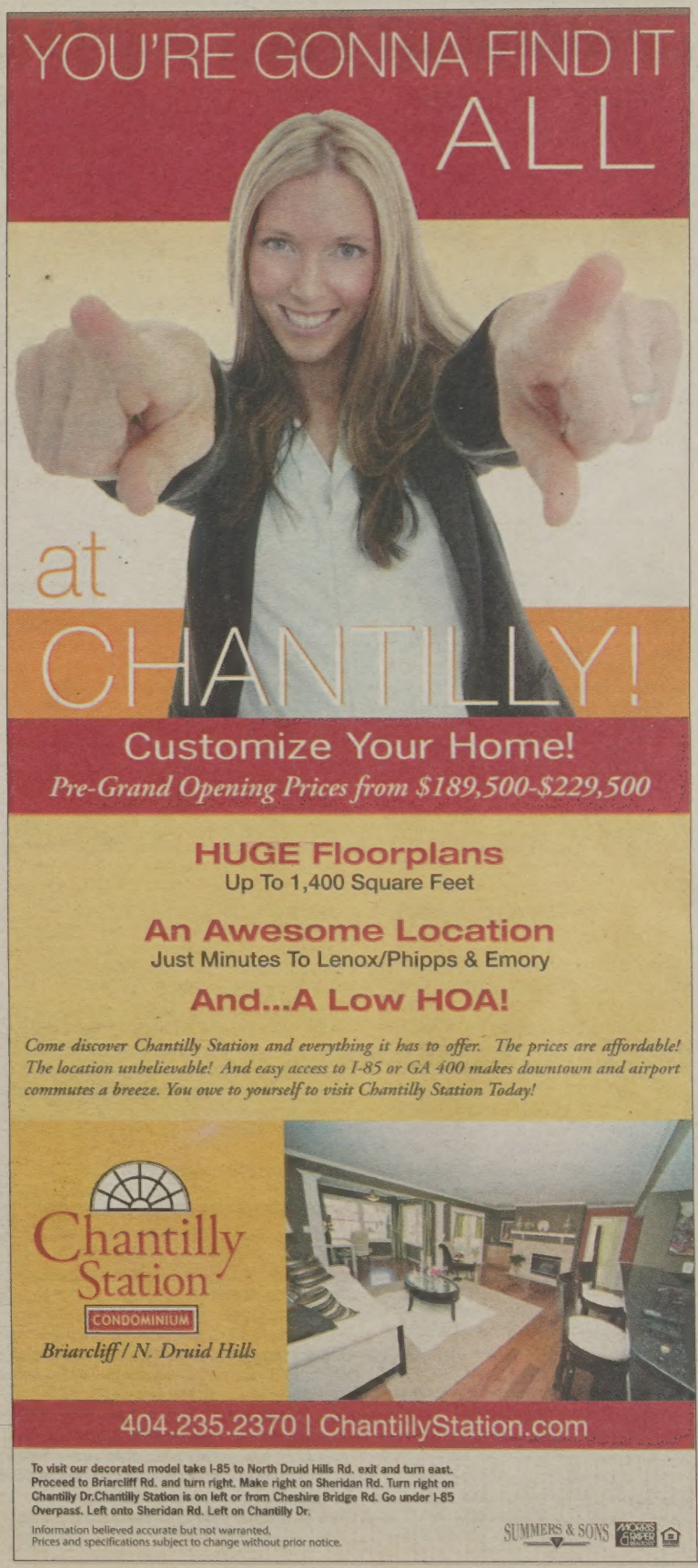
The session is sponsored by Evolve!, part of YouthPride's programming for suicide prevention. The program is free.

— Matt Schafer

YouthPride Foster Care Session
Oct. 2, 7 - 9 p.m.
1017 Edgewood Ave
404-521-9713, ext. 207
www.youthpride.org
tana@youthpride.org

Huge Gluten-Free Selection
Vegan & Vegetarian Items
Fresh Organic Produce
Cutting Edge Supplements
Large Bulk Food Section
Grab & Go Prepared Foods
Organic Beauty Products
RETURN TO EDEN
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIC MARKET
Return2eden.com
404.320.EDEN(3336)
2335 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30324
at the corner of Lavista and Cheshire Bridge
We Ship Anywhere!

East Atlanta's Best Kept Secret
HILLCREST PARK
EAST ATLANTA
CONDOMINIUMS
1366 Custer Ave.
Atlanta, GA 30316
Starting at $129,900*
Builder Incentives
Call for Details
STANDARD FEATURES
• 1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Condos
• Gated Community
• Hardwood Floors
• Granite Countertops
• Crown Molding
• Low HOA Fees
• Minutes from Downtown
SALES CENTER HOURS
Sat. 11-5
Sun. 12-5
Weekdays by appointment.
Call 404-627-4240
Jeanie Hunter Realty
Garry Wilson
Top Agent 2006 & 2007
www.liveathillcrestpark.com
*Incentives based on use of preferred lenders.
Garry Wilson
Jeanie Hunter REALTY


YOU'RE GONNA FIND IT ALL
at CHANTILLY!
Customize Your Home!
Pre-Grand Opening Prices from $189,500-$229,500
HUGE Floorplans
Up To 1,400 Square Feet
An Awesome Location
Just Minutes To Lenox/Phipps & Emory
And...A Low HOA!
Come discover Chantilly Station and everything it has to offer. The prices are affordable! The location unbelievable! And easy access to I-85 or GA 400 makes downtown and airport commutes a breeze. You owe to yourself to visit Chantilly Station Today!
Chantilly Station
CONDOMINIUM
Briarcliff / N. Druid Hills
404.235.2370 | ChantillyStation.com
To visit our decorated model take I-85 to North Druid Hills Rd. exit and turn east. Proceed to Briarcliff Rd. and turn right. Make right on Sheridan Rd. Turn right on Chantilly Dr.Chantilly Station is on left or from Cheshire Bridge Rd. Go under I-85 Overpass. Left onto Sheridan Rd. Left on Chantilly Dr.
Information believed accurate but not warranted.
Prices and specifications subject to change without prior notice.
SUMMERS & SONS

UP TO $75,000 OFF SELECT HOMES
AT THE BEST SELLING CONDOMINIUM IN ATLANTA!*

A DYNAMIC MIDTOWN LOCATION.
A PRICE THAT LETS YOU ENJOY IT.

CHECK OUT THESE INCREDIBLE SAVINGS
ON THE RESIDENCES YOU'LL LOVE TO CALL HOME:

UP TO $75,000 OFF SELECT 2-BEDROOM RESIDENCES!
RESIDENCE 2309. WAS $478,700...NOW $403,700

UP TO $50,000 OFF SELECT 2-BEDROOM RESIDENCES!
RESIDENCE 2314. WAS $349,900...NOW $299,900

UP TO $20,000 OFF SELECT 1-BEDROOM RESIDENCES!
RESIDENCE 2104. WAS $233,700...NOW $213,700

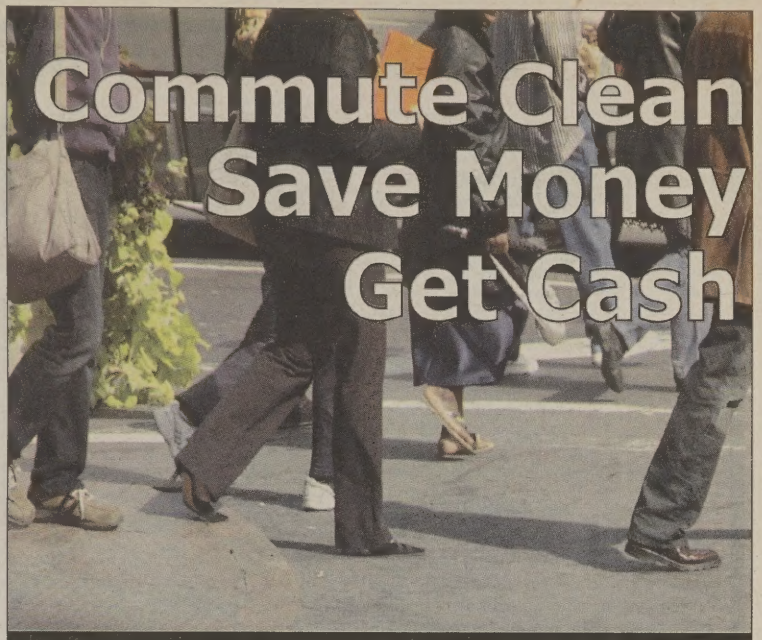
WE'LL MATCH YOUR $7,500
FEDERAL HOMEBUYER TAX CREDIT.‡

VIEWPOINT
EVERYTHING ELSE IS BESIDE THE POINT
855 PEACHTREE STREET WWW.VIEWPOINTMIDTOWN.COM
404.961.7180

LOUDERMILK ROHRIG, LLC

See sales agent for details. Information and best-selling claim is based on internal data of like-property sales and is believed to be accurate but is not warranted. Specifications, pricing and availability are subject to change without notice. *Offer is not valid with any other offers. Offer applies to new contracts only, entered into between August 31, 2008 and October 31, 2008. Applies to homes as selected by developer. Source: Condominium Market Overview, Intown Atlanta, Mid-Year 2008, Prepared by Haddow & Company. ‡Seller will match the amount of the first time homebuyer tax credit you are eligible to receive, not to exceed $7,500. Sales by Novare Realty, 404-961-7770.

Commute Clean
Save Money
Get Cash



www.DowntownTMA.com
Downtown ATMA
Not commuting Downtown? Go to www.cleanaircampaign.com

kudzu
antique market
After 30 years, Atlantans *still* say
"It's my *favorite* place to shop!"

Furniture SALE!
Atlanta's Best Prices Just Got Better

Atlanta's best selection of Southern Art

Folk Art Gallery

Classic Vinyl LP's
1000's of Books
Vintage Clothing
Retro Lighting

REBUY REUSE RECYCLE

2928 E. PONCE DE LEON AVE.
DECATUR • 404-373-6498
OPEN 7 DAYS 11-7

Gay topics unlikely in first presidential debate

McCain, Obama to focus on foreign policy, security

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

Presidential hopefuls **John McCain** and **Barack Obama** were not expected to discuss gay topics at their debate tonight, which will focus on foreign policy. (Photo by AP)

Gay activists called on PBS anchor Jim Lehrer this week to ask Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain about gays in the military during the first Obama-McCain presidential debate.

But the prevailing view among political observers was that gay-related issues were unlikely to surface during the first debate, which the two candidates prearranged as a forum on U.S. foreign policy and national security issues.

"'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' harms military readiness and costs taxpayers several hundred million dollars a year," said Aubrey Sarvis, executive director of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a national group that advocates on behalf of gay service members. "The American people need to know this."

It was unclear at press time, though, whether the debate scheduled for tonight would occur.

McCain said Wednesday that he was suspending his campaign in response to the Wall Street crisis, and was asking Obama to join him in seeking a debate postponement. Obama's campaign responded by saying the best way to shed light on the crisis was to debate it.

There was no immediate comment Wednesday from the Commission on Presidential Debates.

Sarvis and other advocates for gay service members have argued that "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" compromises national security by requiring the discharge of highly qualified, openly gay service members at a time when the military needs their skills.

An SLDN campaign to push for a question on the subject in the first debate resulted in the group's supporters sending more than 1,000 e-mails to Lehrer, urging him to ask McCain and Obama about the issue, according to an SLDN statement.

A gay-straight alliance at the University of Mississippi, the site of the debate, also held a pre-debate forum on gay and transgender issues Wednesday.

"The town hall forum is an opportunity to draw attention to the state of LGBT equality in the context of the 2008 presidential election," the forum's organizers said in a statement.

Those scheduled to speak at the forum included Jasper Hendricks of National Black Justice Coalition; Brian Moulton of Human Rights Campaign; Steve Ralls of Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays; Anthony Ramos of Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network; Rashad Robinson of Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; Aubrey Sarvis of Servicemembers Legal Defense Network; and Christine Sun of American Civil Liberties Union.

Activists said there was a greater likelihood that gay-related questions would surface in the vice presidential debate between Democratic Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware and Republican Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska on Oct. 2 at Washington University in St. Louis. Veteran journalist Gwen Ifill is set to moderate that debate.

The second presidential debate between McCain and Obama is scheduled for Oct. 7 at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., and will be moderated by NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw. It was to be conducted as a town meeting where audience members can ask questions.

Activists expected gay topics to surface in the third and final debate between the two presidential contenders Oct. 15, with "the economy and domestic policy" designated as the topic. The debate is to be held at Long Island's Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y. CBS News correspondent Bob Schieffer was scheduled to moderate the debate.

OBAMA ON 'DON'T ASK' In an interview published last week in several gay newspapers, Obama for the first time said he would not invoke executive authority on military matters to unilaterally repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on his own.

He made his comments in response to a question asking him if he would use executive powers to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" if his advisers told him existing presidential authority allowed him to do so. Legal experts have said "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" can only be repealed by Congress, which enacted the policy into law in 1993.

"I would not do it that way," Obama said. "The reason is because I want to make sure that when we reverse 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' it's gone through a process and we've built a consensus or at least a clarity of that, of what my expectations are, so that it works.

"My first obligation as president is to make sure that I keep the American people safe and that our military is functioning effectively," he said in the interview, which was conducted by Philadelphia Gay News publisher Mark Segal.

"Although I have consistently said I would repeal 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' I believe that the way to do it is to make sure that we are working through a process, getting the Joint Chiefs of Staff clear in terms of what our priorities are going to be."

Obama has said in debates and speeches this year that he favors repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," saying gays should be allowed to serve openly in the military. McCain has said he favors retaining the law because military leaders say it is working well and should be left in place.

The law requires that gay service members conceal their sexual orientation to remain in the military. Disclosure of a gay, lesbian or bisexual soldier's sexual orientation is grounds for immediate discharge under the statute.

Sarvis said he doesn't consider Obama's latest comments as a form of backtracking on "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

"I agree with Sen. Obama that it is critical to work with the Department of Defense and the Joint Chiefs from the get-go to get buy-in on changing the DADT law," Sarvis said. "With the president leading and working directly with DOD and Congress, we can get this done."

MCCAIN STAFFER OUTED? Gay blogger Michael Rogers and gay radio host Michelangelo Signorile of Sirius Satellite Radio jointly reported this week that several reliable sources confirmed Mark Buse, the chief of staff for McCain's Senate office, is gay.

But gay Republican activists, including Patrick Sammon, president of the Log Cabin Republicans, said Buse is openly gay and dismissed the report as a publicity stunt for Democrats.

"You can't out somebody if he's openly gay," Sammon said.

Rogers and Signorile said in their report that anti-gay conservative and religious groups backing McCain did not know McCain had a gay chief of staff.

They also said Buse "was working against the interests of the lesbian and gay community" by living as a gay man while working for McCain, who the two said opposes gay rights. Rogers called McCain "homophobic."

"It's ridiculous to call Sen. McCain homophobic," Sammon said. "This shows Sen. McCain doesn't discriminate against gay people. It shows he will hire the best and the brightest regardless of their sexual orientation."

A spokesperson for McCain's Senate office did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

ELECTION 2008

Other campaign news

A legal scholar who supports Proposition 8, the voter initiative that seeks to ban same-sex marriage in California, was scheduled to be part of a contingent of religious leaders campaigning for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama this week.

According to the Christian Broadcasting Network, Douglas Kmiec, who wrote a commentary for the San Francisco Chronicle in June urging Californians to vote for Proposition 8, will join liberal Catholics and progressive Evangelical activists on the campaign trail for Obama.

Shin Inouye, an Obama campaign spokesperson, confirmed the CBN report, and said Obama's campaign reflects diversity in opinions and that Obama doesn't agree with the views of his supporters on all issues. Inouye noted that Obama is a strong supporter of gay rights and opposes Proposition 8.

Democratic vice presidential nominee Joe Biden will be the featured speaker at the Human Rights Campaign's 12th Annual National Dinner on Oct. 4 in Washington, D.C.

Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin's hometown library in Wasilla, Alaska, last week received an unsolicited donation of two gay children's books from longtime AIDS activist Michael Petrelis and his partner, Mike Merrigan. It was not immediately clear whether the library would place "Heather Has Two Mommies" and "Daddy's Roommate" on shelves. Palin has denied reports that she attempted to pressure the library into banning certain books as the town's mayor.

Catholics for Choice, a group that backs abortion rights, released the results of a national survey it commissioned that shows more Catholic voters believe the economy (68 percent) rather than "promoting moral values" (25 percent) is the most important issue for the next president.

According to the survey results, 6 percent of Catholic voters cited advancing gay rights as a priority for the next president and 58 percent said they oppose gay marriage. The survey also shows Catholic voters are split evenly in their support for Obama and McCain, with 17 percent undecided.

Phyllis Lyon on 55 years with Del Martin

Lesbian activist recalls early work, urges defeat of Prop 8

By AMY CAVANAUGH

When lesbian activist Del Martin died last month at age 87, she left behind a record of unparalleled achievements in fighting for gay rights.

She also left behind her wife, Phyllis Lyon.

But the 83-year-old widow said she's "doing all right" despite Martin's death Aug. 27, in part because she has "an awful lot of friends around" and has received "incredible" support.

"I've gotten cards from people we knew, and then some from people we didn't know from anywhere," she said. "This response just goes to show that there were a whole lot of people who knew about her even if they didn't know her."

In her first extensive interview since Martin's death, Lyon discussed her 55 years with Martin, from their 1950 meeting in Seattle to their 2004 wedding in San Francisco.

Lyon said she fondly remembers meeting Martin at the Seattle newspaper where the two worked.

"We became good friends, and at some point Del and I and another woman that we worked with went to get a drink," Lyon said. "We were sitting there chatting, and how it even came up I have no recollection, but we got on the subject of homosexuality. One of us said to Del, 'How come you know so much about this subject,' because we didn't know anything. And Del said, 'Because I am one.'

"I had never heard the word 'lesbian' until she said it. In those days, we didn't go around talking about sex or anything. If you knew anything about homosexuals, it was that they were nasty. I don't think people really talked about lesbians at all."

Lyon said that several years later — after the pair had become more intimate but were not yet in a committed relationship — Lyon quit her job in Seattle and went on a road trip to New Orleans with her sister.

She and Lyon kept in contact via Lyon's collect phone calls, and when Lyon moved to San Francisco, where she had family, Martin suggested that the two try living as a couple.

"I told her, 'I don't know if I'm ready for that,'" Lyon said. "But finally, I thought, 'What the hell, I really would like to be with her.' So I wrote her a letter."

But the relationship almost didn't happen.

"At the same time, a friend of Del's said that she should 'get rid of that woman,' and she was about to send me a letter saying that we should stop the whole thing," Lyon said. "Luckily, mine got there first."

Lyon said that it took a few months to get everything together.

"Del wanted a place with a view, and we found one on Castro Street, which wasn't a gay street at that time," she said. "It was a one-bedroom place with a backyard. Del came in at 11 p.m. on Valentine's Day on a Greyhound Bus."

Lyon noted that it was initially a trying time for the couple, since neither was accustomed to sharing their home.

"Fortunately a friend of Del's gave us an adorable kitten, a half Siamese," Lyon said. "We only stayed together the first year since we couldn't decide how to divide the cat. But after the first year, it got easier."

'WE WERE SO EXCITED'

As the relationship solidified, Lyon said she and Martin sought to meet other lesbians in San Francisco.

"We were trying desperately to meet other lesbians," she said. "There were a whole bunch of bars in the city and we would go to them. We would watch the people who all seemed to know each other, but nobody ever came over to us and asked if we were new, and we were too shy to go talk to them."

Lyon said she and Martin eventually met a gay couple who lived near them. The couple introduced them to a lesbian who asked Lyon and Martin if they were interested in joining three other couples in a secret society for lesbians.

"We were so excited," she said. "We were about to meet five more lesbians than we already knew."

That group later became the Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian rights organization. Martin and Lyon were involved with the group for several years and helped edit The Ladder, the first widely circulated lesbian newsletter.

Spurred into greater action, Lyon said she and Martin became involved with the National Organization for Women.

Lyon said the couple sought to convince the organization that lesbian issues were feminist issues, and Martin ran for a seat on the board of directors.

"We were at the NOW conference in D.C., and we were staying at the Hilton," Lyon said. "While we were there, I think every lesbian in the organization came up to Del to beg her not to come out as a lesbian when she ran. There were lesbians who couldn't be missed as lesbians who were pleading with her not to do that, and she basically told them to go to hell. When she made her speech, she came out, and she ended up being elected."

In an extended interview, Lyon recalled many other memories of her life with Martin before pausing.

"You know, it was never a dull moment around here," she said. "Until the last couple of years, which weren't even dull, but just not as active."

FIGHTING FOR MARRIAGE

Despite working throughout their lives for gay rights, Lyon said that she never expected to see gay couples marry in her lifetime.

"I didn't expect it — and Del and I got married twice," she said. "It just wasn't something that we were interested in, since the whole movement was interested in getting laws that kept people from being fired from their jobs, or being thrown out of their houses or apartments for being gay."

Del Martin (left) and **Phyllis Lyon** were the first gay couple married in California. After Martin's death last month, Lyon is fighting to keep same-sex marriage legal in her home state 'because what happens in California spreads to the rest of the country.' (Photo by AP)

But when the option became available, Lyon and Martin became the first same-sex couple to wed in California. The carefully orchestrated event in February 2004 heralded a rush of same-sex weddings in the Golden State.

"After [San Francisco Mayor] Gavin Newsom announced that the city was going to allow gays and lesbians to get married, Kate Kendell [executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights] called me to ask if Del and I wanted to get married," Lyon said. "So I asked Del and she said, 'Why not?'"

Lyon said Kendell drove her and Martin back to their house after the ceremony.

"We were just standing in the middle of the room and didn't know what to do," she said. "Finally, Del said that she was hungry, but we had nothing there for lunch. So we went down to Delancey Street, where no one even knew we were married until the next day when it was in the news."

Lyon said that she's now doing what she can to defeat Proposition 8, the proposed state constitutional amendment in California that would ban same-sex marriage.

"I have a big sign in my window, and I've sent money and I'm telling everybody to vote no," she said. "But I'm 83, going on 84, and I don't have a lot of energy to gallop around and do much. I'm doing everything I have the energy to do."

Lyon noted that organizations such as the National Center for Lesbian Rights have raised money in Martin's honor to defeat the measure.

"I think it's very important, because what happens in California spreads to the rest of the country," she said. "And we're a big, big state. I think that if we defeat it, and it means that we get to keep marrying gays, it's bound to make an effect. It will push the gay marriage issue up front and put it on the doorstep of a lot of other states."

YOUR ACCIDENT. YOUR INJURY. YOUR MONEY.℠

"I'M ADAM JAFFE — FIND OUT HOW WE CAN PUT MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET BY CALLING US FOR A FREE CONSULTATION OR CHECK OUT OUR REDUCED RATES AT WWW.ITSYOURINJURY.COM."

"IT'S TIME FOR A CHANGE! WITH THE ECONOMY IN TROUBLE, IT'S TIME AN INJURY LAW FIRM GIVES BACK TO THE COMMUNITY. AT ATLANTA TRIAL LAWYERS GROUP OF ADAM JAFFE & ASSOCIATES, WE'RE DRASTICALLY REDUCING THE FEES WE CHARGE NEW CLIENTS. WE ENSURE THE VERY BEST INJURY RECOVERY BY ALWAYS PUTTING THE CLIENT FIRST — AND TELLING IT STRAIGHT — LIKE WE WOULD FOR FAMILY. WE MEET NEW CLIENTS FACE-TO-FACE, THEN ASSIGN AN AGGRESSIVE FIVE PERSON TEAM AND WORK NON-STOP TO PUT MORE DOLLARS IN YOUR POCKET.

"SO, LET OUR FAMILY REPRESENT YOU AND YOURS IN SOLVING YOUR ACCIDENT, INJURY, MALPRACTICE OR WRONGFUL DEATH PROBLEM. CALL US TODAY, WE'LL MAKE IT RIGHT."

ATLG
ATLANTA TRIAL LAWYERS GROUP®
OF ADAM S. JAFFE & ASSOCIATES, LLC

1720 PEACHTREE STREET • SUITE 150 • ATLANTA, GA 30309
404-881-5399
WWW.ITSYOURINJURY.COM

"Come On Over To Our Side"
SUBARU of South Atlanta

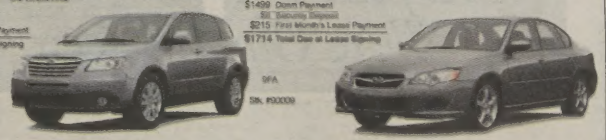
Test-drive the 2009 Subaru Tribeca. SUBARU

2009 SUBARU TRIBECA 5-PASSENGER
- 2008 IIHS Top Safety Pick†
- Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive
- 256-hp SUBARU BOXER® engine
- Stability control and traction control

$399* PER MONTH LEASE/ 36 MONTHS
$2500 Down Payment
$0 Security Deposit
$399 First Month's Lease Payment
$2899 Total Due at Lease Signing
STA
Stk. #90019

2008 SUBARU LEGACY 2.5i SPECIAL EDITION
- Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive
- 170-hp SUBARU BOXER engine
- Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS)

$222* PER MONTH LEASE/ 36 MONTHS
$1499 Down Payment
$0 Security Deposit
$215 First Month's Lease Payment
$1714 Total Due at Lease Signing
9FA
Stk. #90009



"Come On Over To Our Side"
SUBARU of South Atlanta

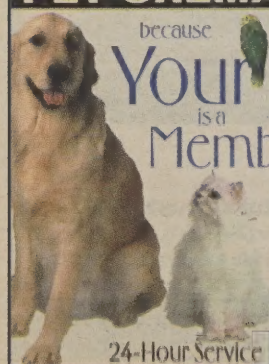
4015 Jonesboro Road
Union City, GA 30291
www.subaruofsouthatlanta.com

Contact Richard Austin at 678.783.2824

Subaru, Forester, Outback, Tribeca, Legacy, Impreza, and WRX are registered trademarks. †Top Safety Picks include 2009 Subaru Forester, 2008 Tribeca, Impreza and Legacy equipped with available VDC.

* Tax, title and registration fees extra. Special lease rates extended to well-qualified buyers and are subject to credit approval, vehicle insurance approval and vehicle availability. Lessee pays personal property and ad valorem taxes (where applicable), insurance, maintenance repairs not covered by warranty, excessive wear and tear and a mileage charge of $.15 per mile for mileage over 10,000 miles per year. Dealer participation may affect final cost. Offer not available in Hawaii. Cannot be combined with any other incentives or offers. Payments may be higher in some states. Must take delivery from dealer stock by October 4, 2008.

PET CREMATIONS AND BURIALS



because Your Pet is a Member of the Family

Georgia's Only Certified Crematory Operator
Licensed Funeral Embalmers on Staff

DECEASED PET CARE Inc. EST. 1972 THE SHUGART FAMILY

Funeral Home & Crematories

Owned & Operated by the Shugart Family since 1972
• Full range burial and cremation services • Full size showrooms •
• Beautiful gardens • Pre-need planning • Three locations to serve you •
• Serving pet owners for more than 34 years •

24-Hour Service 770.457.7659 Call our office today to receive your FREE pre-need planning guide!

Feds oppose domestic partner benefits bill

Union leaders counter that measure is 'good for business'

By LOU CHIBBARO JR.

The deputy director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management told a Senate hearing Wednesday that his agency opposes legislation that would provide domestic partners of gay federal employees the same benefits available to spouses of straight employees.

Howard C. Weizmann surprised members of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs when he revealed his agency's opposition to the legislation after initially noting OPM had no official position on the measure.

"We are opposed to this bill," Weizmann said minutes after one of his aides, who sat behind him, leaned forward and spoke to him privately.

The announcement of opposition came after Weizmann read a statement expressing concern over several technical issues he said OPM would have to resolve in order to put in place employee benefits for the same-sex partners of federal workers.

Sen. Joseph Lieberman (I-Conn.), chair of the committee and chief sponsor of the Domestic Partnership Benefits & Obligations Act, said he was pleased that Weizmann's concerns were limited to technical matters that could easily be corrected.

Lieberman said after the hearing that he remains hopeful that the bill will move forward next year.

"This is the first hearing we've ever had on this subject," he said. "We'll be back next year with, I hope, more sponsors, and perhaps we can get it passed."

Asked after the hearing whether Republican presidential nominee Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), who Lieberman is supporting, has taken a position on the federal partners bill, Lieberman said, "I don't know. I've never talked to him about this, but I will."

Lieberman, Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), and Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) were the only senators among the 17-member committee who attended the hearing.

Collins and Akaka expressed strong support for the bill, saying they believe it would help the federal government by providing a fair and equitable workplace.

Colleen Kelley, president of the National Treasury Employees Union, and Sherri Bracey, program manager for the American Federation of Government Employees, said offering benefits to domestic partners of federal employees would help the government retain qualified workers at a time when many experienced federal employees are nearing retirement.

Sen. **Joseph Lieberman** (I-Conn.) says he remains hopeful employee benefits for the same-sex partners of federal workers will move forward next year. (Photo by AP)

They also said partner benefits have become widely available from private sector employers, including a majority of the nation's Fortune 500 companies. The two noted that federal agencies must now compete with these companies for highly skilled and experienced workers.

Now the federal government has become a "laggard" on the employee benefits front as more than 53 percent of Fortune 500 companies provide domestic partner benefits for their employees, Kelley said.

"Domestic partner benefits serve as a vital talent development opportunity at the leadership level," said Yvette Burton, global business development executive for IBM. "In a nutshell, it can improve low productivity and morale caused by inequitable workplace practices, thereby creating a positive work environment."

But Weizmann, a former executive with private companies, said he has seen no studies or definitive evidence to show that the absence of domestic partner benefits in the federal workforce has led to a significant loss of employees.

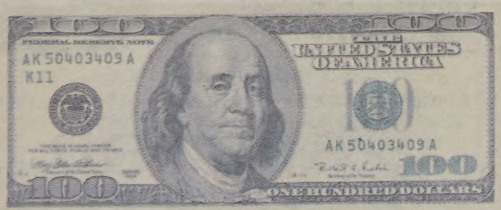
He noted that existing studies show that only 1 percent of employees apply for benefits for their domestic partners, when such benefits are offered in the private sector.

In his testimony, Weizmann also noted that OPM is concerned a provision in the Domestic Partner Benefits & Obligations Act that calls for a signed affidavit to substitute for a marriage certificate used by married employees could lead to fraud.

Lieberman said his committee would consider this concern and would make revisions at the time of a bill markup.

"We understand that this is something we've got to work on," he said. "It will require education and the presentation of the fact. But I think it's important. It's not only the right thing to do but important to the federal government in terms of attracting and retaining the best employees."

ONE GEORGIA BANK
RELATIONSHIP BANKING
Everyone Is *Talking* Green.
We're *Giving* Green.



Open an electronic account and we'll donate $100 to Piedmont Park Conservancy or Trees Atlanta in your name*.

PIEDMONT PARK CONSERVANCY
TREES ATLANTA

* To qualify open any One Georgia Bank checking account and sign up for Electronic Statements, Direct Deposit and Bill Pay. One Georgia Bank will donate $100 in your name to Piedmont Park Conservancy or Trees Atlanta. The choice is yours.

WWW.ONEGEORGIABANK.COM
Midtown Bank Location 1180 Peachtree Street NE ~ Suite B ~ Atlanta, Georgia 30309 ~ 678-553-7070
Member FDIC | Equal Housing Lender
One Georgia Bank. Copyright 2008

SPACEMAX storage SM
First Month Free
Atlanta's Premier Self Storage

- Humidity & temperature controlled
- 24-hour surveillance
- Over 90 security cameras
- Clean indoor environment
- Small to large spaces
- Covered loading area
- Business & personal storage
- After hours access
- 2 Convenient locations near you

Emory/VaHi 404.888.9688
Across from Sage Hill Kroger at the top of Zonolite Rd
1248 Zonolite Rd., Atlanta, GA 30306

Decatur 404.292.0606
At the corner of N. Decatur Rd & DeKalb Industrial Way
2910 N. Decatur Rd., Decatur, GA 30033

www.spacemaxstorage.com

Southern Comfort Conference 2008

www.sccatl.org

September 30 - October 5
Crowne Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta

One Community
One Family

Celebrate Life and be a Part of the Largest Transgender Event in America!

Monday	**September 29, 2008**
7:00PM - 11:00PM	Informal Reception in "Chip Shots" Lounge
Tuesday	**September 30, 2008**
7:00PM - 11:00PM	The Welcome Abroad "Stuffing" Party
Wednesday	**October 1, 2008**
NOON – 4 PM	Shore Excursion to Orchid Isle: Atlanta Botanical Garden
6:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Shore Excursion to Mystery Isle: Agatha's Mystery Dinner Theater
Thursday	**October 2, 2008**
8:30 AM – 7:30 PM	Marketplace Open
9:00 AM – NOON	Seminars / Workshops
12 NOON – 1:45 PM	Lunch: Bon Voyage!
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Seminars / Workshops
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	SCC Cruise Dance Lessons: Belly Dancing on Deck!
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Wine Tasting
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Newcomer's Reception
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	Pink Essence Reception
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	Shore Excursion to the Tavern: Dinner at Hudson Grille
7:00 PM – 1:00AM	Transmen's Welcome Party
8:00 PM – 11:00 PM	Fun and Games in the SCC Celebration Casino
Friday	**October 3, 2008**
8:30 AM – 7:30 PM	Marketplace Open
9:00 AM – NOON	Seminars / Workshops
9:30 AM – NOON	Career Expo
12 NOON – 1:45 PM	Lunch: Port Of Call - Cancun

Friday Continues	**October 3, 2008**
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Seminars / Workshops
2:00 PM – 4:30 PM	Career Expo
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM	People of Color Reception
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Cocktail Party: Port of Call - Jamaica
7:00 PM – 9:30 PM	Dinner – Dinner on the Island
8:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Variety Show
10:00 PM – 3:00 AM	Exotic Nightlife Excursion: "Le Buzz"
10:30 PM – 2:00 AM	"SOCO-A-GOGO" – Live Entertainment
Saturday	**October 4, 2008**
8:30 AM – 7:30 PM	Marketplace Open
9:00 AM – NOON	Seminars / Workshops
NOON – 1:45 PM	Lunch: Port of Call - Key West
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Seminars / Workshops
2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Comfort Zone
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Paradise Pool Party
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	NCTE Reception
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Documentary Screening: "Still Black"
6:00 PM – 7:15 PM	The Captain's Cocktail Party Live Entertainment – Vicki D'Salle
7:30 PM – 9:45 PM	Dinner at the Captain's Table
8:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Jade Esteban Estrada – Performance
9:30 PM – 9:45 PM	Recognitions and Thank You's
10:00 PM – 2:00 AM	Rockin' the Boat Dance Party Live Music – "Barely Standing"

For more information email: registrar@sccatl.org

Second Annual Transgender Career Expo 2008

Friday, October 3rd 2008

Crown Plaza Ravinia, Atlanta

- Alston & Bird LLP
- Cox Enterprises
- Deloitte & Touche USA LLP
- Ernst & Young LLP
- General Electric
- General Motors
- Hewitt Associates
- Hewlett Packard
- IBM
- KPMG LLP
- Lambda Legal
- NCTE
- NGLCC
- New York Life
- Raytheon
- Southern Voice and David Magazine
- Systems 81
- Turner Broadcasting Systems
- GLAAD
- Wachovia

Sponsored by
The Southern Comfort Conference

In Partnership with
Out & EQUAL Workplace Advocates

Celebrate Life

Second Annual Transgender Career Expo 2008
Sponsored by the Southern Comfort Conference
In partnership with Out and Equal Workplace Advocates

Conference calls for national AIDS strategy

Healthcare workers, advocates focus on needs within minority, gay communities

By JUAN CARLOS RODRIGUEZ

Attendees form a human AIDS ribbon at the U.S. Conference on AIDS last week in Ft. Lauderdale. (Photo courtesy NMAC)

Minorities, young people, women and gay men continue to be in the eye of the storm as the AIDS epidemic approaches its third devastating decade.

This was the prevailing thought among most of the 4,000 attendees at the 12th annual U.S. Conference on AIDS held in Fort Lauderdale last week.

In the four-day spree of panels and workshops, dinners and cocktail parties, HIV/AIDS advocates spoke about strategies in battling the increase in HIV infection rates in the US, including the need to establish a comprehensive national AIDS strategy.

"It makes a whole lot of sense," said Tom Liberti, chief of the Florida Department of Health Bureau on HIV/AIDS. "If we require other countries to have one, we should have one too."

According to CDC reports, an estimated 56,000 people contract HIV each year, with a majority of new infections among men who have sex with men, especially young men who engage in "high risk behaviors."

"The need for open and honest dialogue about the impact of HIV/AIDS on gay men and MSM has never been more pressing," said Paul Kawata, executive director of the National Minority AIDS Council, sponsor of the four-day event that took place in Fort Lauderdale last week. "The rates of HIV/AIDS are rising especially among gay men and MSM of color."

Kawata read a statement Republican presidential candidate John McCain during the closing reception. A statement by Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama was also read on Saturday.

McCain pledged to bring together non-profit and government agencies to "promote prevention efforts, encourage testing, targeting communities with high infection rates."

Obama, meanwhile, committed to developing a comprehensive national AIDS strategy, as well as fight the "stigma that is too often tied to homophobia" that surrounds the disease.

Advocates and medical professionals also addressed HIV rates and risks among women of color, and alarming trends associated with the former inmates who leave prison newly infected.

Transmission among transgender populations, and among people aged 50 and older, continue to show rising infection rates as well. On the treatment front, medical professionals led seminars about managing escalating health care costs and patient loads, while dealing with no federal funding increases for the last eight years.

Lesbian groups grow beyond I-285

ALLIANCE, continued from Page 20

Northeast Georgia mountains, and the West, Northwest and Southside.

"Then we starting talking about [ALHI] bringing their message and us delivering it through our chapters," Giraudo said. "And the further away from the metropolitan area we can go, I think the larger our relevance will be."

Fourth Tuesday
www.fourthtuesday.org

Atlanta Lesbian Health Initiative
1530 DeKalb Avenue, NE, Suite A
404-688-2524
www.thehealthinitiative.org

ALHI Fall Garden Party
Oct. 12, 3:30-7:30 p.m.
Peasant Bistro
250 Park Avenue West
Tickets: $65 through the end of Sept., $75 after

It's not just ALHI and Fourth Tuesday that are affected, Ellis said.

"I think this is a larger conversation for our community to have, since it is so difficult to reach out and sustain organizations and support across the incredibly varied and diverse gay and lesbian community," she said.

To that end, ALHI also hopes to work with Georgia Equality to bring its health resources to the gay political group's members around the state, Ellis said.

In the meantime, Fourth Tuesday and ALHI are moving ahead with the alliance, and looking forward to their members getting to know each other better at the Garden Party.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with women and men from across the metro area, and we are hoping to bring in women from Fourth Tuesday to be a part of this celebration and kicking off this alliance," Ellis said.

INMAN VILLAGE
TOWNHOMES
WWW.INMANVILLAGE.COM

The Italianate style, all brick townhomes are 3 beds/3.5 baths with select homes offering elevators. Standard features include professional line of Viking stainless steel appliances, private decks, 10' ceilings on 2nd & 3rd floors, plaza lawn with fountain and outdoor pavilion with pool & fireplace. *Pool now open!*

STARTING AT $549,900

LET THE SELLER PAY YOUR MORTGAGE FOR UP TO 6 MONTHS!
SEE AGENTS FOR DETAILS.

HARRY NORMAN, REALTORS® Since 1930
Brunning & Stang

EXCLUSIVE LISTING AGENTS
TACHA COSTNER 404.274.8134
LEIGH HAYS 404.402.4554

Buckhead Office-532 East Paces Ferry Road, Atlanta, GA 30305, 404.233.4142. www.harrynorman.com Betsy Franks - Broker.
The above information is believed to be accurate but not warranted. Offer subject to errors, changes, omissions, prior sales and withdrawals without notice. Equal Housing Opportunity.

Trans woman wins case against Library of Congress

Diane Schroer, a former Special Forces commander, won her lawsuit against the Library of Congress. A judge ruled that the institution 'was enthusiastic about hiring' her 'until she disclosed her transsexuality.' (Photo by AP)

SOVO SOUTHERN VOICE NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former Army Special Forces commander passed over for a job as a terrorism analyst at the Library of Congress because she was in the process of transitioning from male to female has won a discrimination lawsuit. U.S. District Judge James Robinson ruled Sept. 19 that the Library of Congress discriminated against Diane Schroer of Alexandria, Va., by not giving her the job after the former David Schroer disclosed becoming Diane before beginning the new job. "The evidence establishes that the library was enthusiastic about hiring David Schroer — until she disclosed her transsexuality," Robinson wrote in his decision. "The library revoked the offer when it learned that a man named David intended to become, legally, culturally, and physically, a woman named Diane. This was discrimination 'because of ... sex.'" Advocates called the ruling groundbreaking because a federal judge has now ruled that discriminating against someone for changing genders is sex discrimination under federal law. "The court got it exactly right, sending a loud and clear message to employers everywhere: if you fire or refused to hire someone for transitioning, you are guilty of sex discrimination and may well find yourself liable," said Sharon McGowan, a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union who helped with the case.

HATE CRIMES

University of Wyoming to honor memory of Matthew Shepard

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — Judy Shepard and University of Wyoming President Tom Buchanan are scheduled to participate in the dedication of a memorial bench honoring slain student Matthew Shepard. Judy Shepard of Casper is the mother of Matthew Shepard, who was murdered in an anti-gay attack in Laramie in October 1998. The two men who killed him are serving life sentences in prison. Judy Shepard is executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, which presented the bench to UW to honor her son's memory. The dedication will take place Saturday at the campus' Quealy Plaza. The Matthew Shepard Foundation's stated goal is to "replace hate with understanding, compassion and acceptance." The Shepard family started the foundation in the aftermath of their son's death 10 years ago.

Oklahoma skinhead ordered to stand trial for murder

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — An Oklahoma County judge has ordered a self-described skinhead to stand trial on first-degree murder and kidnapping for allegedly abducting and killing a gay man nearly a year ago. The judge made the determination Sept. 19 after hearing testimony from seven witnesses in a preliminary hearing for Darrell Lynn Madden, 38. Madden and Bradley Qualls killed Steven Domer on Oct. 27, then dumped his body in a McClain County creek, FBI agent Craig Overby testified. Madden pleaded guilty in July in Carter County to killing Qualls, whom prosecutors said he wanted to keep quiet. Madden is serving a prison term of life plus 60 years for that crime. Oklahoma County prosecutors have not decided whether to pursue the death penalty against Madden in Domer's slaying, District Attorney David Prater said.

GOVERNMENT

U.S. urged to end travel ban on people with HIV

WASHINGTON (AP) — Experts at an early August international AIDS conference in Mexico City were full of praise for the United States for reversing a 15-year-old law banning HIV-positive people from entering the country. But nearly two months after President Bush signed that act into law, his administration has yet to do what is required to put the new law into practice. Lawmakers and advocacy groups are wondering what is going on. "We write to encourage you to act quickly to remove HIV from the list of communicable diseases of public health significance and end the HIV travel and immigration ban," Sens. John Kerry, a Democrat, and Gordon Smith, a Republican, wrote to Health & Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt last month. Before the statutory ban effectively can be ended, HHS must write a new rule, submit it for public comment and complete it. "We're working hard to revise the regulation, and it's our goal to have it completed during this administration," said HHS spokesperson Holly Babin. She said it was "a time-consuming process, and we are giving it the attention it deserves in an effort to anticipate all issues and get it right."

From staff and wire reports

EDITORIAL

'Isms' vs. issues

The debate over Sarah Palin has been marred by sexism, including from gays. But that doesn't make her qualified to be vice president.

By LAURA DOUGLAS-BROWN

I CLEARLY REMEMBER THE FIRST WOMAN nominated as vice president by a major political party. It was 1984, and I was 11 years old. I didn't understand anything about Geraldine Ferraro's political positions, or those of her running mate, Democratic presidential nominee Walter Mondale. But Ferraro made an impression on me and all the other little girls I knew.

My cousin and I even dressed her little brother up in make-up, styling his hair with her mom's curling brush, because we thought he looked just like Ferraro. We had a great time playing presidential race, until her mom caught us. Yes, we got in trouble for dressing her brother up as a girl (and yes, he grew up to be gay).

While that afternoon of feathered hair was hardly the cause, perhaps that primping was an early example for him of what could be, just as Ferraro's candidacy showed us what was possible, though still improbable, for girls in America.

Flash forward 24 years. I'm thrilled that my own little girls can see a woman nominated for vice president. I just wish it weren't this woman.

At press time, Sept. 26 was scheduled to be the first presidential debate. More than finally seeing the two candidates go head to head, I'm looking forward to the debate as a respite from the inanity that has characterized so many of the discussions surrounding this year's election.

Unfortunately, I fear that whatever real differences on national security and foreign policy come out of the first Obama-McCain debate will fade in less than week, when the vice presidential candidates take the stage for their first and currently only debate on Oct. 2.

Because when it comes to Sarah Palin, despite some strong work from investigative journalists in the weeks since her nomination, voters and commentators on both sides seem incapable of actual analysis.

Instead, we get broad accusations that have little to do with her actual qualifications to be vice president, and much to do with the lingering biases that continue to divide this country.

With the potential to elect either our first African-American president or our first female vice president, this election has focused far too much on "isms" over issues. And unfortunately, our community isn't immune.

I HAVE READ PROBABLY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS of words about Sarah Palin since McCain announced her selection as his running mate, but I have had a difficult time writing any of my own.

I have been too blinded by anger, and too frustrated by mixed feelings, to know where to start.

I'm angry that McCain nominated her over far more qualified Republicans, including other Republican women who would have offered more substance, but less style.

I'm angry that my first response to Palin's GOP convention speech was "I wish Obama had nominated Hillary for VP." I'm angry at myself for even thinking that, because although I applauded Hillary, she would have been the wrong choice for Obama. He deserves to have his presidency judged on its own terms, not as Bill's third term or Hillary's first.

I'm angry because of course, if Obama had picked Hillary, McCain would never have picked Palin, or likely any other woman for that matter.

And I'm angry that when Palin's GOP apologists claim she has been the victim of sexism — a charge they would have dismissed as whining with Hillary, as "The Daily Show's" Jon Stewart brilliantly illustrated through comparison video clips — I know that they are right, just not in the way that they think.

THE SEXISM STARTED WITH PALIN'S NOMINATION. What else can you call it when McCain and his advisors apparently think that female voters are so stupid that they can attract disgruntled Hillary supporters by simply waving a different set of XX chromosomes in front of them?

It continued with reaction to her convention speech. Despite the right-wing drumbeat against the so-called "liberal media," the CNN commentators I watched were more than willing to give Palin the benefit of the doubt. One actually crowed that "tonight a new star is born" and didn't even say, "in the GOP." He said "in the United States." Then they went on to talk about what a great job she did, because those teleprompters can be hard to read.

Talk about "the soft bigotry of low expectations." Sarah Palin is an instant star because she can read. Would this have ever been said about a white male candidate?

According to Palin's supporters, the sexism has continued in every hard-hitting interview and article since, from questions about Palin exerting her influence to hire friends (or fire enemies), exploring the possibility of censoring the town library when she was mayor of Wasilla, her flip-flops on the Bridge to Nowhere and opposing earmarks, and her attempts to keep emails out of the public record.

Raising those issues, and any that directly impact her ability to govern, isn't sexist. It's responsible journalism, and it's a role that it's high time the mainstream press remembered how to play.

But other questions that have been raised about Palin's appearance and family life are deeply steeped in gender bias. Too many times, in too many blogs and comment sections, I've seen doctored photos putting her in a bikini, and remarks dismissing her with those words so often used to keep women in their place — "bitch" at the top of the list.

Worse still are suggestions that Palin is an irresponsible mother because she is continuing a highly ambitious career despite having an infant son with Down syndrome. Who will take care of Trig, the earnest commentators wonder, while Palin is busy figuring out what the vice president does all day?

The easiest way to identify a potential "ism" is to ask how the same issue would play out with someone from a different gender or racial group. We've seen it used to great effect in the recent, widely circulated essay by Tim Wise on the impact of white privilege on how Barack Obama is viewed.

But the same is true of male privilege and Sarah Palin. We have not questioned the child-care plans of the men running for president and vice president, and hers are not fair game.

SADLY, MANY OF THESE TYPES OF COMMENTS ARE circulating on gay blogs and email lists. As people often impacted by unfair stereotypes, we should know better.

There are more than enough good reasons why lesbian and gay voters in particular should work to keep Palin (and her now overshadowed would-be boss, McCain) out of the White House. The GOP ticket opposes virtually every item on the so-called gay agenda, including allowing gays to serve openly in the military, legal recognition for gay couples, inclusive hate crimes laws, and banning job discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. There is no need to bolster our case against them by appealing to sexism.

It's not just that such justifications are overkill, and reprehensible. Perhaps as importantly, they are likely to backfire.

By allowing Palin and her supporters to claim victimhood, we risk turning the November vote on the McCain-Palin ticket into a referendum on her treatment over her qualifications. If we help perpetuate the more sexist claims against her, we risk handing her a sympathy vote that she doesn't deserve.

These are votes that Obama — facing his own "ism," as an AP survey and analysis suggested racism could cost him as many as 6 percentage points — can't afford to spare.

Editor **Laura Douglas-Brown** can be reached at **lbrown@sovo.com**

FRIEND or FOE

FRIEND

Steven Spielberg (Photo by AP)

He's won Oscar after Oscar. Now movie producer and director Steven Spielberg is proving to be quite the gay marriage mensch. This week, Spielberg and his wife, Kate Capshaw, donated $100,000 to support the fight against Proposition 8, the California ballot initiative that would stop same-sex marriage in the state. Last week, Brad Pitt gave the same amount to the cause.

Movie stars — especially the gay ones who have gotten married in the Golden State— will hopefully want to keep up with the Spielbergs and the Pitts in that town of fierce competition and earn their own star on the Walk of [Gay] Fame.

FOE

News broke this week on blogs that Mark Buse, chief of staff for Republican presidential candidate John McCain's Senate office, is gay. This despite McCain's support for an anti-gay marriage amendment in Arizona and his support of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which bans openly gay people from serving in the military.

The gay Log Cabin Republicans have endorsed McCain for the presidency, so it's not unheard of that a gay person would serve in a high-ranking position in the McCain camp.

But to many, this is outright hypocrisy. Michael Rogers of blogactive.com awarded Buse his Roy Cohn Award "for working against the interests of the lesbian and gay community while living as a gay man."

Mike Signorile of Sirius Satellite Radio says Buse is actually rather "open to those around him and to his family — in a 'glass closet' rather than deeply undercover or trying to appear heterosexual."

Buse would do better to shatter the glass closet and tell his boss that he — and other gay people — deserve equality just like everyone else.

All material in Southern Voice is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced without the written consent of Southern Voice. The sexual orientation of advertisers, photographers, writers and cartoonists published herein is neither inferred or implied. The appearance of names or pictorial representation does not necessarily indicate the sexual orientation of that person or persons.

The editorial positions of Southern Voice are expressed in editorials and in the editor's notes as determined by the editor. Other opinions are those of writers and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Southern Voice or its staff.

soapbox

Three ways to make your Southern Voice heard: Send letters to **editor@sovo.com**. • Visit **www.sovo.com** and click "Sound Off." • Use **"Comments"** sections following each story online.

MAILBOX

If you put lipstick on a Log Cabin endorsement…

Re: "Why Log Cabin stands with Sen. McCain" (op-ed by LCR President Patrick Sammon, Sept. 12)

To the Editors:

How unfortunate that Patrick Sammon and Log Cabin apparently do not grasp how incredibly important this election will be to the well being of LGBT Americans and women for decades to come. As close as the contest between McCain and Obama is, it is inconceivable that they encourage anyone to vote for McCain when he has already made clear that his court appointments will be the most reactionary right-wing conservatives he can find. Those appointments will haunt us for years.

I am not a single issue voter either, but can he not see that Republicans have totally destroyed the myth that they are better on foreign policy, the economy, jobs, energy, healthcare, and taxes? Republicans, in addition to using us for "red meat" (and of course, they still are) have presided over the collapse of our standing in the world and the total meltdown of our economy. The only energy policy they have is "drill, drill, drill."

How shocking and sad that Log Cabin may actually help destroy some of the progress that we as LGBT Americans have made in recent years.

WINSTON JOHNSON
Atlanta

To the Editors:

I read the paper today and thought my breakfast was ruined when I read the article by Patrick Sammon, president of the Log Cabin Republicans. I was angry at first and then re-read it. I get it now; it was satire.

Nobody who is gay and lived through the last eight years could be serious with these views. If I ever get depressed, I'll remember Partick's words, Sen. McCain is running an inclusive campaign and he'll run an inclusive administration.

I am laughing while I write this. Thanks for the good laugh.

JOHN ESIELIONIS
Atlanta

No excuse for Cotillion's double standard

To the Editors:

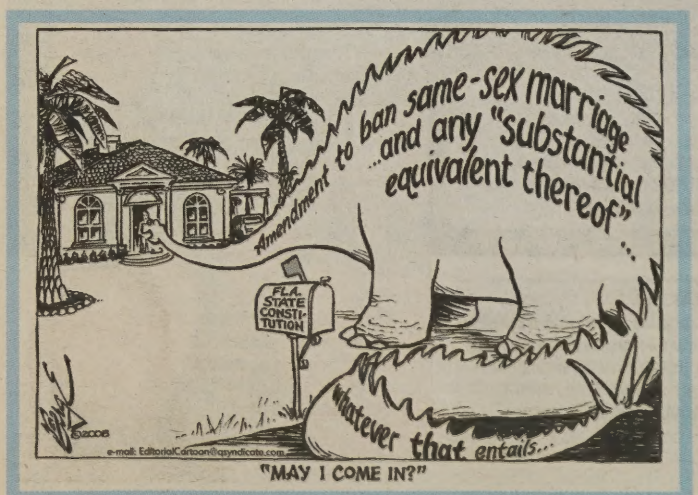
Travis George submitted a rambling, repetitive tirade ("SoVo wrong to criticize a gay HIV fundraiser," Mailbox, Sept. 19) against Laura Douglas-Brown's editorial on the Cotillion ("No place at Cotillion's table," Sept. 5), so I am prompted to write the congratulatory letter to SoVo that I conceived when I first read the editorial.

SoVo was more than fair in giving Mr. George inordinate space. His rant is completely off base. SoVo had every right to publish that editorial and was right to do so.

How people in tuxedos, including women, could destroy the tradition of a Cotillion, I cannot imagine. Nothing Mr. George wrote addresses this double standard, and nothing could ever excuse this injustice: men could wear dresses or tuxedos, but women were to wear dresses.

No matter how you look at it, this requirement is wrong. It should never have occurred to anyone to voice it, and especially not in the LGBT community. Nobody faulted Editor Chris Crain for highlighting in SoVo the anti-gay attack he and his partner suffered in Holland. Why fault Ms. Douglas-Brown? Another case of double standard?

DANIEL A. HELMINIAK
Atlanta


Amendment to ban same-sex marriage ...and any "substantial equivalent thereof"...
FLA. STATE CONSTITUTION
whatever that entails...
e-mail: EditorialCartoon@cagle.com

"MAY I COME IN?"

THE Q Online

Which would you rather put lipstick on?

- A pitbull: 1%
- A hockey mom: 5%
- A pig: 10%
- A drag queen: 16%
- Is this seriously what passes for political debate now?: 68%

Visit www.sovo.com to cast your vote in a new Q every week!

SOUND OFF

What about holding Pride at Georgia Tech?

Re: "Which way to Atlanta Pride?" (news, Sept. 12)

One possible Pride location was missing from the list — Georgia Tech. Late June/early July weekends should be pretty quiet there, it's in Midtown and near MARTA, has large facilities both outdoors (parade ending at Dodd Stadium?) and indoors and you would think it would be easy to shut down streets there as well.

Alums should support gay Berry College students

Re: "Berry College gay students seek official recognition" (news, Sept. 5)

I have sent a letter to Jeanne Mathews with my concerns regarding BC's stance. I am a Berry College alumni and financial contributor. I encourage other alumni to do the same. Let's reach out to Kaitlin and see how we can help.

Of course I support the club, but has anyone noted the irony of consciously choosing to go to a Christian university and expecting acceptance?

Former Hoedowns proprietor looks great in orange

Re: "Former Hoedowns proprietor pleads 'not guilty'" (news, Sept. 12)

Thank you for keeping our community updated about the crook named Ben Elliott. Ben, you look great in orange!

Good job on your reporting of this case. Elliott is an unethical bully who needs to face the consequences of his actions.

THE Q

If you were to get a gay pride tattoo, what would it be?

"My girlfriend was a lifeguard, and she died trying to save someone else. She had a spirit unlike anyone you've ever met, and she always had a feather in her hair, so I want to get a feather on my ankle to honor her."
Miranda Jackson, 19
Buckhead

"It would be that line from the Declaration of Independence, 'Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.'"
Nerissa Belcher, 52
Douglasville

"It would be my astrological sign in the color of a rainbow. I'm a Cancer so my sign is a 69, which I feel is pretty gay anyway."
Frankie Asher, 22
Stockbridge

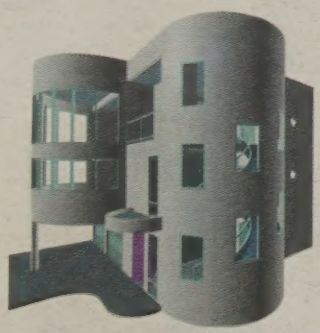
"I wouldn't have a gay pride tattoo. Tattoos shouldn't be a labeling of who you are."
Homay Ra Ra'off, 24
Atlanta

"Since I've never really thought about it I don't really know. I got my earring in my left ear, and that was my symbol."
Phil Cherry, 59
Norcross

Compiled by Matt Schafer

Live Well Chiropractic
Celebrating 9 years serving our community

404.235.0995
livewellchiropractic.com
2345-5 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
Next to Tara Theatres

Undeniably Modern
Undeniably You

Ultra-Modern Homes from EVO
$394,000 to $750,000 + including house and land.
Call for info packet.
evohomes.net
404.713.0665

SO VO SOUTHERN VOICE

itinerary

SEPT. 26 - OCT. 5

TO ADD A LISTING...
e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 19, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Calendar editor. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance of publication date.

FRIDAY SEPT. 26

The Blue Lamp Tour returns with Stevie Nicks impersonations; proceeds go to the Elton John AIDS Foundation and the Birds of Rhiannon Sanctuary for wildlife. 9 p.m. at The Stage Door, 4431 Hugh Howell Road, Tucker. 770-414-9292, www.myspace.com/thebluelamptour

Former Atlantan **Candace Chellew-Hodge** discusses her book, **'Bulletproof Faith: A Spiritual Survival Guide for Gay and Lesbian Christians.'** 8 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304, www.charisbooksandmore.com

The creators of 'Another Gay Movie' are back with **'Another Gay Sequel: Gays Gone Wild.'** The campy characters return for Spring Break. Limited engagement at Midtown Art Cinema, 931 Monroe Drive. 678-495-1424, www.landmarktheatres.com

FRIDAY SEPT. 26-**SATURDAY** SEPT. 27

WETbar Closing Weekend finishes the club's tenure as a gay nightlife favorite with DJ Samantha Ronson (Lindsay Lohan's rumored fiancée) on Friday night and DJ Billy Carroll on Saturday. 960 Spring St., 404-745-9494, www.wetbaratlanta.com

SATURDAY SEPT. 27

YouthPride celebrates the end of summer with its annual **Splash Pool Party** fundraiser at a private residence. RSVP with Asha Leong, 404-521-9711 or asha@youthpride.org

CHRIS Kids, Inc., whose programs include the CHRIS Rainbow Home for gay youth, throws its annual **CHRIStal Ball** fundraiser. 7 p.m. cocktails and silent auction, 8 p.m. dinner at the Grand Hyatt Buckhead, 3300 Peachtree Road NE. 404-564-3411, www.chriskids.org

Singer-songwriter **Michelle Malone** rocks Decatur's cornerstone live music venue. 8 p.m. at Eddie's Attic, 515-B North McDonough St., Decatur. 404-377-4976, www.eddiesattic.com

SATURDAY SEPT. 27-**SUNDAY** SEPT. 28

The 35th annual **Grant Park Tour of Homes** includes 14 private residences, as well as stops at Oakland Cemetery and the Grant Mansion. Tours start at 10 a.m. Saturday and noon Sunday. 404-586-9999, www.GrantParkTour.org

SUNDAY SEPT. 28

Lesbian author and journalist **Linda Villarosa** presents **'Passing For Black,'** which explores the boundaries of sexuality. 6 p.m. at Charis Books & More, 1189 Euclid Ave. 404-524-0304, www.charisbooksandmore.com

FRIDAY SEPT. 26

Musician **Mary Delaney** plays an acoustic performance. 9 p.m. at Bellissima, 560-B Amsterdam Ave., 404-917-0220, www.myspace.com/bellissima_lounge

PHOTO BY TMYERS.COM

FRIDAY SEPT. 26

The 17th Street Art Fair puts hundreds of artists and artisans, including an exhibit of Southern Folk Art, among the shops at Atlantic Station. 404-634-8876, www.17thstreetartfair.com

BATIK BY AMOS AMIT

PHOTO BY AP

SUNDAY OCT. 5
The one and only **Janet Jackson** performs live. 7:30 p.m. at Philips Arena, 1 Philips Drive. 404-878-3000, www.phillipsarena.com

SUNDAY SEPT. 28
The Feminist Women's Health Center, a non-profit health resource for women, hosts its fundraiser **PUSH! A Party for Reproductive Justice** in Little Five Points. 7 p.m. - midnight at the Five Spot, 1123 Euclid Ave. 404-223-1100, www.feminist-center.org

TUESDAY SEPT. 30
Identical twin lesbian singer-songwriters **Tegan & Sara** return to Atlanta in support of their latest endeavor, 'The Con,' with guests City and Colour and Girl in a Coma. 7:30 p.m. at The Tabernacle, 152 Luckie St. 404-659-9022, www.tabernacleatl.com

Social Tuesdays offers a new weekly mixer for gay men that takes place at a different venue each week. Inaugural event 7 p.m. - 11p.m. at Geisha House, 1380 Atlantic Drive in Atlantic Station 404-872-3903, www.dolcegroup.com/atlanta, www.socialatl.com

SATURDAY SEPT. 27
The gay couple who wrote and produced Atlanta's longest-running stage show 'Peachtree Battle' opens **'Veranda,'** a play about a Buckhead socialite campaigning for Christian of the Year, featuring men in female roles. Runs through Jan. 31. 8 p.m. at Ansley Park Playhouse, 1545 Peachtree St., 404-875-1193, www.ansleyparkplayhouse.com

FRIDAY OCT. 3 - **MONDAY** OCT. 6
Live music and comedy, a chili cook off and other fun contests take place at the **Indiegrrl Fest GA** at **Swiftwaters**, a three-day festival at the North Georgia women-only campground. Starts 10 a.m. on Friday, 830 Swiftwaters Rd., Dahlonega, GA, 276-224-0485, www.indiegrrl.com

SATURDAY OCT. 4
Renowned folk and country singer-songwriter **Nanci Griffith** performs with the Blue Moon Orchestra in Little Five Points. 8 p.m. at Variety Playhouse, 1099 Euclid Ave., 404-524-7354. www.variety-playhouse.com

SATURDAY OCT. 4-**SUNDAY** OCT. 5
Visual artists in Pine Lake come together for the **Pine Lake Lakefest**, dubbed 'an arts festival in an artists' community.' 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. both days at Lakeshore Drive, Pine Lake. PineLakeFest@gmail.com, www.pinelakega.com

upcoming

Visit **www.sovo.com** for expanded calendars and organization listings covering nightlife, sports, spirituality and health.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					SEPT. 26 **Mary Delaney** @ Bellissima, myspace.com/bellissima_lounge **Candace Chellew-Hodge** at Charis. www.chariscircle.org	**SEPT. 27** **CHRIStal Ball** for CHRISkids, chriskids.org **Grant Park Tour of Homes,** grantpark.org **ZAMI scholarship brunch.** www.zami.org
SEPT. 28 **17th Street Art Fair** at Atlantic Station. www.atlanticstation.com **Linda Villarosa** with "Passing for Black" at Charis. chariscircle.org	**SEPT. 29** **Come Out Dancing** lessons and social dance. www.comeoutdancing.com	**SEPT. 30** **Tegan & Sara** at The Tabernacle. www.tabernacleatl.com	**OCT. 1** **Maroon 5 & Counting Crows** at Lakewood. 404-443-5000	**OCT. 2** **Sex, Wine & Chocolate** fundraiser for SPARK Reproductive Justice & Project South. sparkrj.org	**OCT. 3** **Indiegrrl Fest** at Swiftwaters. www.myspace.com/swiftwatersfest	**OCT. 4** **'Blessing of the animals'** at St. John's Episcopal in College Park. stjohnscollegepark.com
OCT. 5 **AGLCC Community Expo & Job Fair.** aglccserver.com	**OCT. 6** Local author **Jon Michaelsen** with book "Men" at Outwrite. www.outwritebooks.com	**OCT. 7** **William Consecu** at Outwrite with novel "Being Written." www.outwritebooks.com	**OCT. 8** **AGLCC WOW Wednesday.** www.aglccserver.org **PALS Bingo** w/rodeo theme. www.palsatlanta.org	**OCT. 9** **Nancy Floyd** with "She's Got a Gun" at Charis. www.chariscircle.org	**OCT. 10** **Taste of Atlanta begins.** www.tasteofatlanta.net	**OCT. 11** **YouthPride homecoming** party. www.youthpride.org Poet **Collin Kelly** at Wordsmiths. wordsmithsbooks.com
OCT. 12 **Atlanta Lesbian Health Initiative Garden Party.** www.thehealthinitiative.org	**OCT. 13** **Young Women Writers** group at Charis. charis.booksense.com	**OCT. 14** **Second ATL Queer Literary Festival** opens. atlqueerlitfest.blogspot.com	**OCT. 15** **Alanis Morissette** at Cobb Energy Center. cobbenergycentre.com	**OCT. 16** **Gay Legal Issues 101** at AEN. www.aen.org **Little Five Points Halloween festival** kicks off. www.l5p.com	**OCT. 17** **Jenny Block with "Open"** at Ouwrite. www.outwritebooks.com	**OCT. 18** **Great Decatur Beer Tasting Festival.** www.decatur-ga.com
OCT. 19 **AIDS Walk Atlanta.** walk.aidatlanta.org	**OCT. 20** **Maureen McCormick** (Marcia Brady) at Outwrite. www.outwritebooks.com	**OCT. 21** **AGLCC New Member Orientation** and Breakfast at Radial Cafe. www.aglccserver.com	**OCT. 22** **Dear and the Headlights** at the Loft. www.theloftatl.com	**OCT. 23** David columnist **Topher Payne** signs self-published book at Outwrite. www.outwritebooks.com	**OCT. 24** Jerusalem House **'Skeletons in the Closet' Halloween Bash** at the Foundry at Puritan Mill. www.jerusalemhouse.org	**OCT. 25** **Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus 'Serenade' fundraiser** at Habersham Gardens. www.agmchorus.org

New @ Outwrite!

MY FIRST FIVE HUSBANDS and the ONES THAT GOT AWAY
Rue McClanahan
Broadway Books

JACKPOT! THE BEST BETTE
Bette Midler

SEX AND THE CITY THE MOVIE
Two-Disc Special Edition Extended Cut

Events @ Outwrite!

★ **WED OCT 1, 7:30**
PLAY PREVIEW!
SKIN DEEP
by **LARRY CORSE**

★ **THUR OCT 2, 7:30**
OBAMA PRIDE
Info Session & Rally

SAT SEPT 27
10TH & PIEDMONT
4 CORNERS-IN MIDTOWN
THE 10TH & PIEDMONT BUSINESS GUILD
SUPER SATURDAY
:: 09.27.08 ::
ENJOY
SPECIAL SAVINGS
GUEST APPEARANCES
& MORE

sponsors include
Outwrite • Twelve • Gilbert's • Helmet
Flying Biscuit • Zocalo • Wireless Toyz
Cafe of Life Chiropractic • Caribou Coffee
Blue MedSpa • Nickiemoto's
Atlanta Intown • Blake's on the Park

www.outwritebooks.com
991 PIEDMONT AVE
@ TENTH ST
MIDTOWN ATLANTA
404 607 0082
OPEN DAILY
10 am - 11 pm
FREE PARKING
ATLANTA'S GAY & LESBIAN
OUTWRITE
BOOKSTORE & COFFEEHOUSE
OUTWRITE - STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY FOR 15 YEARS

DINE WITH PRIDE

WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER

THE GREAT FOLKS AT HOMEGROWN RESTAURANTS WILL DONATE 15% OF YOUR LUNCH AND DINNER CHECK TO ATLANTA PRIDE

MEMBERS OF THE ATLANTA PRIDE COMMITTEE WILL BE PRESENT AT DINNER TO WELCOME YOU AND TO FIND OUT WHAT YOU WANT PRIDE 2009 TO BE!

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 8
OSTERIA 832 PASTA & PIZZA
OSTERIA 832
VIRGINA HIGHLAND

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 15
DocChey's NOODLE HOUSE
DOC CHEYS
EMORY VILLAGE

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22
STELLA neighborhood trattoria
STELLA
GRANT PARK

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 29
DocChey's NOODLE HOUSE
DOC CHEYS
VIRGINA HIGHLAND

www.HomeGrownRestaurants.com

ATLANTA PRIDE 5000 FOUNDATION
SUPPORT PRIDE TODAY JOIN THE 5000 FOUNDATION

atlantapride.org

DYER & DYER VOLVO

"ATLANTA'S VOLUME VOLVO DEALER"

MODEL YEAR-END SALES EVENT!

2008 VOLVO XC90 3.2

NO MONEY DOWN! Sign & Drive Lease

Safety Equipped with Automatic Transmission, CD Player, Dual Threshold Air Bags, Side Impact Protection System, and Roll-Over Protection System Syestem.

Original MSRP $37,430 SAVE $10,000

LEASE FOR ONLY $398MO PURCHASE FOR ONLY $27,430

Stk. #81436352. 51-month closed end lease. $0 due at signing. Plus tax. No security deposit required. 48,000 total allowable miles. With approved credit. Exp. 9/30/08

ONLY 1 AT THIS PRICE!

Original MSRP $25,925 SAVE $5,000

2008 VOLVO C30

Safety Equipped with Automatic Transmission, CD Player, Dual Front & Side Air Bags, Air Conditioning and much more!

PURCHASE FOR ONLY $20,925

Stk. #82053066

2008 VOLVO S80

Nicely Equipped with Automatic Transmission, Leather, Sunroof, Woodgrain, In-Dash 6 Disc CD Changer, Dual Front and Side Airbags and much more!

LEASE FOR ONLY $398MO

Stk. #81075081. 36 month closed end lease. $0 due at signing. Plus tax. No security deposit required. 12,000 total allowable miles. With approved credit. Exp. 9/30/08

2008 VOLVO C70 CONVERTIBLE

Safely Equipped with Automatic Transmission, 6 Disc In-Dash CD Player, Roll Over Protection System, Dual Front and Side Airbags and much more!

NO MONEY DOWN! Sign & Drive Lease

LEASE FOR ONLY $449MO

Stk. #8J053098. 51 month closed end lease. $0 due at signing. Plus tax. No security deposit required. 48,000 total allowable miles. With approved credit. Exp. 9/30/08

2008 VOLVO S40

Safely Equipped with Automatic Transmission, Dual Front & Side Airbags, Air Conditioning, CD Player and much more!

Original MSRP $26,835

SAVE OVER $5,000

PURCHASE FOR ONLY $21,835

Stk. #82357894

Costco membership discounts available. See store for details.

DYER & DYER VOLVO

5260 Peachtree Industrial Blvd. in Atlanta (2 miles inside I-285)

New Car Hotline: 1-800-552-7136

www.dyervolvo.com

VOLVO

YOUR PET CREMATORY

Cindi & Christine proudly operate this "FAMILY" owned business.

paws & whiskers wags

This business was built in honor of ALL our children.

- Featuring our exclusive Pet Tracker 360™ system that guarantees the ashes you receive are the ashes of your pet.
- State-of-the-art facility built for you, the pet owner
- Over 20 years cremation experience.
- Open M-F 9-5. Sat. 9-Noon. 24hr. and same day service available.

2800 E. Ponce de Leon, Decatur, GA 30030 www.PawsWhiskersandWags.com 404.370.6000

SOUTHERN VOICE COMMUNITY

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26

The Atlanta Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce presents **"From the Office to the Wild Side,"** a 4th Friday Mixer at Zoo Atlanta. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., 800 Cherokee Ave., 404-624-5600, www.atlantagaychamber.org

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27

YouthPride holds its annual **End of Summer SPLASH** pool party fundraiser. 4 to 7 p.m., at a private home. RSVP with Asha Leong at asha@youthpride.org or 404-521-9711

CHRISKids hosts the **2008 CHRIStal Ball**, a black tie affair including cocktails, a silent auction and dancing. Festivities begin at 7 p.m., Grand Hyatt in Buckhead. www.chriskids.org

SUNDAY, SEPT. 28

The 35th annual **Grant Park Tour of Homes** draws to a close on this, the last day to see 14 houses in the city's largest historic neighborhood. 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. www.grantpark.org

The works of more than 125 artists are on display in the retail district of Atlantic Station at the 2nd annual **17th Street Art Fair**. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. www.17thstreetartfair.org

MONDAY, SEPT. 29

The **High Holy Days** begin at Congregation Bet Haverim, lasting until Oct. 9. 2676 Clairmont Road NE, Atlanta. www.congregationbethaverim.org or 404-315-6446

TUESDAY, SEPT. 30

The Human Rights Campaign hosts an **LGBT Estate Planning Seminar** entitled "Smart Estate and Financial Planning for Individuals and Families." 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Coca-Cola Headquarters, Goizueta Auditorium, 1 Coca-Cola Plaza NW, Atlanta. www.hrc.org/estateplanning

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1

Georgia Equality holds an **HIV Policy Luncheon**. 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Atlanta Marriot Century Center. 2000 Century Blvd NE, Atlanta. Contact jeff@georgiaequality.org for more information.

ON THE WEB:
For other calendars of special events, visit www.sovo.com.

TO ADD A LISTING...
e-mail calendar@sovo.com, call 404-876-1819, ext. 34, or fax to 404-876-2709, attn: Calendar. Entries should be submitted at least 14 days in advance of publication date.

'An accounting of the soul'

High Holy Days offer time to reflect

By MATT SCHAFER
mschafer@sovo.com

Rabbi **Joshua Lesser** of Congregation Bet Haverim, a synagogue founded by gay men and lesbians, says the upcoming High Holy Days are a time of reflection. (File photo)

EIGHT YEARS AGO, STRUGGLING TO CONTROL his drinking after losing his father, Charlie Chasen attended his first service, a Yom Kippur worship, at Congregation Bet Haverim.

Now, as chair of the synagogue's ritual committee, Chasen is helping to prepare Bet Haverim for the High Holy Days again, in the hopes that others struggling with their faith or sexuality find a home.

"I think it's enormously important to feel accepted, and worship and still be you," Chasen says. "It takes a long time. For me I always said it's not about gay, it's about God, [and] I can go worship anywhere in the world. ... Over time, I've learned that, yes, that's true, but it's very, very different."

Founded by a lesbian and gay Jews 25 years ago, Congregation Bet Haverim, a Reconstructionist synagogue, has long been home for those without close ties to their birth family. Rabbi Joshua Lesser said the synagogue's mission takes on an even greater meaning during the approaching High Holy Days.

Starting sundown Sept. 29, Rosh Hashanah marks the beginning of the Jewish New Year. The holiday is followed by 10 days of introspection and special services that end with Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Throughout the High Holy Days, Jews are encouraged to examine their lives before fasting and confessing their sins on Yom Kippur.

The fast, broken at sundown on Oct. 9, is often shared with family. But the special meal recalls one of the reasons Bet Haverim was founded.

"Back when our synagogue started 25 years ago, it started as a community because [members] had issues with their families, so we had a communal break fast where everyone could come," Lesser says. The rabbi adds more families, both straight and gay, are joining together.

"What we're seeing at our synagogue is that people are flying into Atlanta to break fast with their LGBT children," he says. "On a personal note, my father, who also belongs to another synagogue, will be joining us on Yom Kippur."

THE HIGH HOLY DAYS ARE A CENTRAL TIME OF the Jewish calendar. It's preceded by a month of introspection and starts with a remembering of the past year.

"Rosh Hashanah has some serious aspects to it, but it tends to be a celebration of the New Year," Lesser says.

There are services throughout the 10 days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

"On Yom Kippur it really is this opportunity to let go of any kind of focus on that day of the material world," Lesser says. "People are aware that traditionally you're supposed to fast, but traditionally you're not supposed to watch TV, have sex, anything that would put your focus on your physical life. Yom Kippur is often called an accounting of the soul."

Bet Haverim's Yom Kippur service will be one with children and adults, with gay and straight families leading different parts of worship.

Many synagogues charge tickets to worship at High Holy Days services, but Bet Haverim has long decided to keep the services free, and open to the community.

"We have been very committed for the last eight years to be open and accessible for everyone. What we have done is ask that people RVSP in advance so we can plan... but we have no tickets, precisely because we think everyone should have a home for the holidays," Lesser says.

The congregation has approximately 230 households and expects attendance to swell to over 700 people for some of the services.

High Holy Days
Erev Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 29 — 8 p.m.
Rosh Hashanah, Sept. 30 — 10 a.m.
Rosh Hashanah, second day, Oct. 1— 10 a.m.
Kol Nidre, Oct. 8 — 8 p.m.
Yom Kippur, Oct. 9 —10 a.m.
While High Holy Day services at Congregation Bet Haverim are free to attend, the congregation asks visitors and members to RSVP to cbhevents@gmail.com so leaders can plan accordingly.

GOP considers adoption ban for gay parents

SOVO FLASHBACK

The Republican majority leader in the Georgia Senate said in September 2005 that some legislative colleagues were discussing a proposal to ban gay adoptions through a constitutional amendment that would go before voters in November 2006.

State Sen. Tommie Williams (R-Lyons) said in an e-mail interview that if the legislation passed the General Assembly after it convenes in January, the public is likely to back the amendment based on the overwhelming support in 2004 for Amendment 1, which added a ban on gay marriage to the state constitution.

But Williams said there is little chatter among colleagues about banning gay foster parents, a concern that surfaced recently after the hiring of Mary Dean Harvey as the state's Division of Family & Children Services. Harvey banned gay foster care during her tenure as director of Nebraska's Department of Social Services.

State Sen. Nancy Schaefer (R-Turnersville) took aim at gay foster parents in a column published by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on Sept. 21, 2005.

"To ban children being adopted by same-sex couples is solid policy," she wrote.

Harvey has since resigned from DFCS and no legislation to ban gay adoption has been introduced to date. Schafer lost her re-election bid in 2008.

State Sen. **Nancy Schaefer** (R-Turnersville) wrote two years ago, 'to ban children being adopted by same-sex couples is solid policy.' (Photo by AP)

Southern Voice, Sept. 23, 2005

ATL SPORTS CALENDAR

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY, SEPT. 26

Atlanta Rainbow Trout, Swimming and Water Polo practice, Georgia Tech. www.atlantarainbowtrout.com

Come Out Dancing, Lessons and Social Dance, Several Dancers Core Studio. comeoutdancing.com

Friends Friday Bowling League, League Play, Midtown Bowl. www.friendsfriday.org

Hotlanta Volleyball League, League Play Begins (drafted teams), Agnes Scott College. See www.hotlantavolleyball.org for registration info.

Decatur Women's Sports League. Softball. Kelly C. Cofer Park. decaturwomenssportsleague.info

SATURDAY, SEPT. 27

Front Runners Atlanta, Weekly Run, Piedmont Park. http://frontrunnersatlanta.org

Hotlanta Soccer Association, Practice, Piedmont Park Active Oval www.hotlantasoccer.com

Atlanta Bucks Rugby. Fall Cookout. 1-5 p.m., Atlanta Eagle. www.atlantabucksrugby.org

SUNDAY, SEPT. 28

Atlanta Rainbow Trout, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Swimming and Water Polo Practice, Georgia Tech. Diving, 4:30-6 p.m. at Georgia Tech.

Hotlanta Volleyball League, 2 p.m., Fall League Kick-off Party in Snellville, GA. Call 770-736-0065 or www.hotlantavolleyball.org for info.

Lambda Bowling League, League Play, Midtown Bowl. igbo.org/leagues/League_Detail.cfm?LID=85

Hotlanta Softball. Fall Ball. Piedmont Park. After games, gather at 2 p.m. at host bar FROGS Cantina. www.hotlantasoftball.org

MONDAY, SEPT. 29

Front Runners Atlanta, Weekly Run, Candler Park. Southern Line Dancing, Weekly Dancing, Wild Mustang. www.southernline.org

TUESDAY, SEPT. 30

Atlanta Bucks Rugby. Practice, Southbend Park. www.atlantabucksrugby.org

Atlanta Rainbow Trout, Swimming and Water Polo Practice, Georgia Tech.

Atlas Atlanta Bowling League, League Play at Midtown Bowl. igbo.org/leagues/League_Detail.cfm?LID=78

Hotlanta Volleyball League, Intermediate and advanced, Agnes Scott College. See www.hotlantavolleyball.org for registration info.

Hotlanta Squares, Modern Western Square Dancing Class, First Metropolitan Community Church of Atlanta. www.iagsdc.org/hotlanta

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 1

Front Runners Atlanta, Weekly Run, Piedmont Park.

THURSDAY, OCT. 2

Atlanta Rainbow Trout, Swimming Practice, Georgia Tech.

National Flag Football League of Atlanta. League Play. Piedmont Park. www.nffla.com

Atlanta Bucks Rugby. Practice, Coan Middle School. www.atlantabucksrugby.org

TO ADD A LISTING... *e-mail calendar@sovo.com or call 404-876-1819, x19.*

Too straight to play?

Gay Atlanta softball team protests World Series opponent for having too many heterosexuals

The Hotlanta Softball team the Georgia Mudcats, not pictured in this file photo of HSL league play, is embroiled in a controversy with a San Francisco team the Mudcats allege had too many straight players during the Gay World Series. (File photo)

SO VO SOUTHERN VOICE **SPORTS** DYANA BAGBY

WHEN THE GEORGIA MUDCATS LOST TO SAN Francisco's D2 team last month in the semifinals of the Gay World Series, the Atlanta team said enough was enough.

The Gay World Series, which took place in Seattle Aug. 22-30, featured almost 180 teams from across the United States and Canada. The Mudcats placed second in the highly competitive Class A division, but only after the D2 team was disqualified for allegedly having too many heterosexual players.

Many people in the gay softball world have known the D2 men's softball team was packed with more straight players than allowed in the rules, according to a Hotlanta softball player interviewed by Southern Voice last week. The rules of the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Association, of which the Gay World Series is a member, state only two non-gay players are allowed per team in the World Series.

The Mudcats protested their loss, alleging D2 was breaking the rules by having at least six straight players on their team. Series officials ruled the protest valid while D2 was playing in the championship game against the Los Angeles Vipers. That ruling knocked D2 out of a second place finish and put the Mudcats at No. 2.

"For years, it's never been a secret D2 has too many straight players," said a Mudcat player, who asked to remain anonymous.

"I've played on other teams against D2 and when they put us out of a previous World Series, a friend said, 'I swear to God, I'm never going to get put out of the World Series again by a bunch of straight players.' That's what planted the seed to get them the hell out of there."

The coaches of the Mudcats, as well as Hotlanta Softball Commissioner Rick McCracken, did not respond to repeated requests for interviews.

Southern Voice agreed to allow the Mudcat player to speak anonymously because he said he did not have permission from the league or coaches to speak, but he wanted the team's side of the story to be heard.

"We do let straight people play. But [D2] brings in ringers and it's just unfair for the gay players. This is ours," said the Atlanta player. "If we wanted to play against a straight team, we could've stayed home and not flown across the country to play in the Gay World Series.

"It's not that they [straight players] are better — it's the principle of the matter. They were flat out breaking the rules."

D2 APPEALS DECISION

To make a protest, the Mudcats had to submit the number of players and jersey numbers of the D2 players they believed were straight.

When NAGAAA Commissioner Roy Melani was reached on his personal cell phone two weeks ago, he shouted, "No comment! How did you get this number? This is my personal number! I have no comment!"

San Francisco Gay Softball League Commissioner Vincent Fuqua said last week he was filing a protest with NAGAAA to be completed by Sept. 30.

"They filed the protest after they lost," he said of the Mudcats.

When asked how the Atlanta team knew D2 had straight players, Fuqua answered, "That's a good question."

"From my understanding," he added, "I've not heard of anyone being disqualified for the non-gay rule."

Fuqua said he could not comment further because of the ongoing appeal, but said, "Our policy is to follow NAGAAA rules."

NAGAAA rules specifically state: "A maximum of two heterosexual players are permitted on a [Gay Softball World Series] roster."

The Mudcat player said it's an open secret that D2 has always gone to the Gay World Series with more than two straight players, but teams have been too intimidated in the past to protest.

"They carry their friggin' wives to the ball fields. They don't go to gay bars. We don't know them. I even talked to one of the [D2] players before and he said, 'How can you prove it? You have to prove it [that we're straight].'

"Don't get me wrong. I have nothing wrong with straight players. We have two wonderful straight guys on our team," said the Mudcat player. "But many gay teams playing by the rules have been put out of the series by these guys. And they're breaking the rules. They got caught this time."

AN ISSUE FOR YEARS?

The controversy was first reported in the Bay Area Reporter.

In a Sept. 18 article, D2 player George Lee described what happened after the protest was filed, saying after the game with the Vipers was finished, the team and coaches had to meet with the NAGAAA board.

"They proceeded to read out of the NAGAAA rules and regulations and a definition of what being a heterosexual meant and what being gay meant."

The six players being protested were asked which sex they were "predominantly" attracted to, Lee told the Bay Area Reporter.

"Nobody said they were straight," Lee said. "One guy said he liked both. The guy leading the protest said that wasn't an answer."

"Two of these guys answered the questions the same way. They ruled one was gay and one was straight. On one guy, the vote changed three times."

Eventually the panel ruled that four of the players were straight, two more than allowed by the rules, and therefore the NAGAAA board upheld the Mudcats' protest.

Former San Francisco Gay Softball League Commissioner Lenny Broberg told the B.A.R. that the non-gay rule has been an issue within NAGAAA for years.

"We have been dealing with this issue for NAGAAA for years and nobody ever wanted to say anything," he said. "Nobody ever wants to change it, but nobody really enforced it before. When do you start asking questions and determining what goes on behind closed doors? Why do you wait until the championship game?"

D2 player Lee told B.A.R. that on his team, "We don't really talk about it [sexuality]; that's not what we're there for. We're there to play softball. I am ashamed of how it happened and the way NAGAAA handled it, the way they humiliated those guys. It was really bad the way it was handled: you can't determine someone's sexuality just by talking with them for a few minutes.

"These guys have been playing on the team for years. They've been to five World Series — and now all of a sudden because we're winning and they're not, so they protest? It left a bad taste in my mouth. This is not equality," Lee said.

The Mudcat player said it was his understanding the players were asked to name the designated two non-gay players and the team did not consistently answer the question, thereby upholding the appeal.

"One thing that always stopped protests in the past was how do you prove it," the Atlanta player said. "This time they got outsmarted."

SPORTS STILL HOMOPHOBIC

Ron Taylor of Seattle, spokesperson for the Gay World Series, said he could only comment on the series itself and not the ongoing appeals. This year was the second Gay World Series hosted by Seattle; the first one was in 1995.

"From our point of view, we played 700 games with teams from 171 cities in the U.S. and Canada and raised about $20,000 for local charities. ...

"We've received more than 100 emails and 98 percent of them have been positive. We're hearing nothing but great things. We had a lot of events off the field for players. ... We just want to focus on the good things that happened.

"It's a little sad something like this [controversy] is overshadowing the Games," Taylor said.

Cyd Zeigler Jr., co-founder of OutSports.com, wrote a column about the controversy, pointing out that D2 signed on to play by the rules and the team got caught.

"Sports is still a very homophobic place," he told Southern Voice. "They knew the rules, they broke the rules and you can't break the rules in sports."

For those who say the gay league is "discriminating" against straight players by limiting their numbers, Zeigler said they obviously don't play the sport or understand what sports is all about.

There's the Maccabi Games for Jewish athletes and there are co-ed leagues that require a certain number of women be on the field, he said. And, he added, there's discrimination in professional sports against gay people.

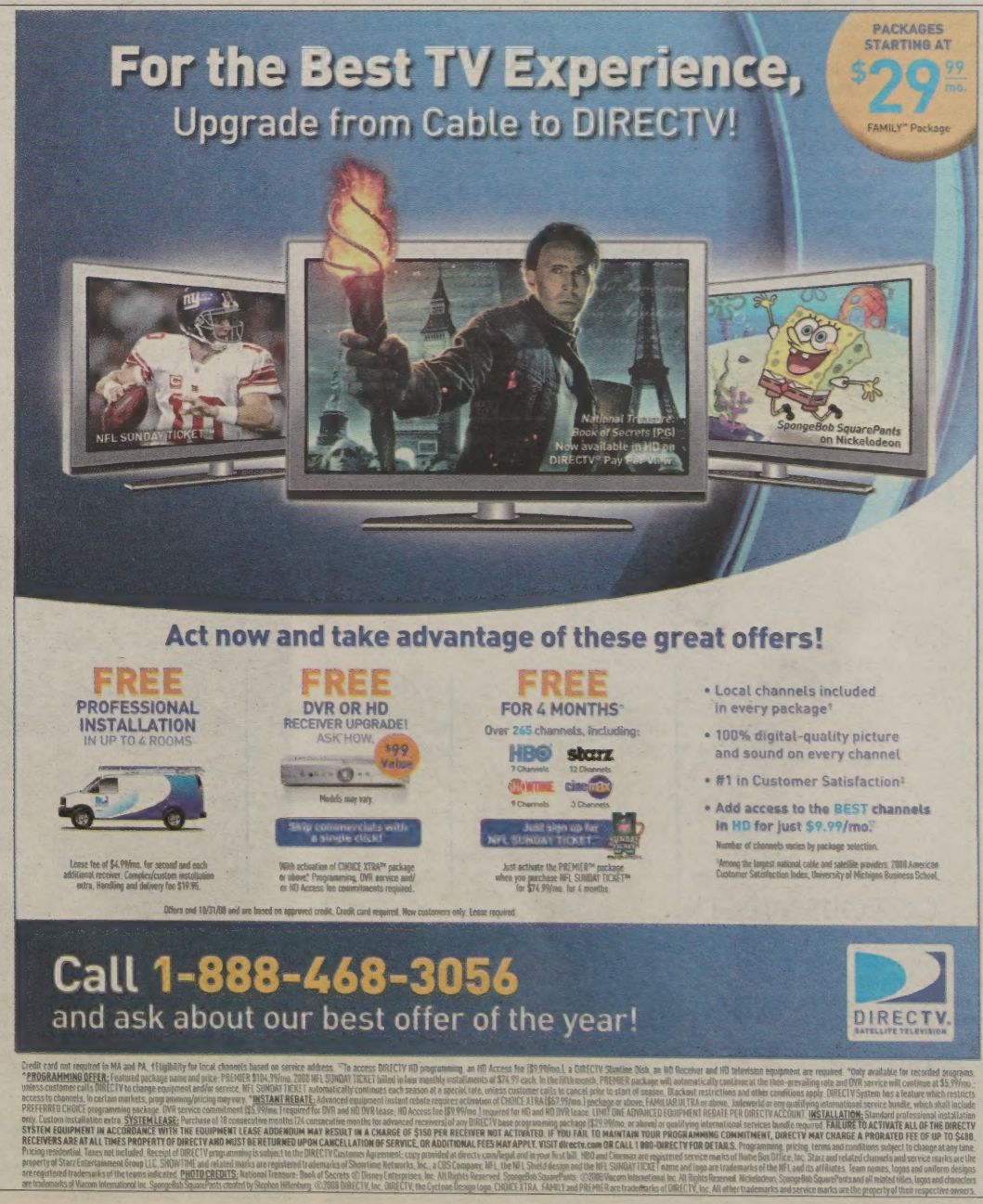
"There is a ban on gay people in straight leagues, in professional sports," he said. "It's an unspoken ban, but it's there."

It's not discrimination, he added, to have mostly gay players play in a gay league.

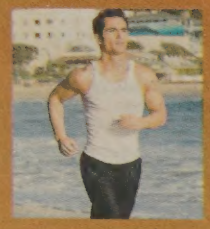
There are reasons for the rules, he said. One is so straight people don't replace gay people who want to play and take their spots on the roster.

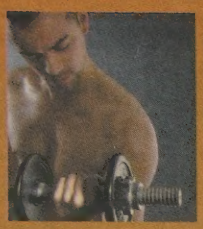
"Teams don't look for more gay athletes when filling a roster to play in the World Series; they always look for great straight players instead," he said.

Stacking a team with straight players "is not about inclusion, it's always about winning," he added.


For the Best TV Experience,
Upgrade from Cable to DIRECTV!
PACKAGES STARTING AT $29.99 mo.
FAMILY™ Package
NFL SUNDAY TICKET™
National Treasure: Book of Secrets (PG) Now available in HD on DIRECTV® Pay-Per-View
SpongeBob SquarePants on Nickelodeon
Act now and take advantage of these great offers!
FREE PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATION IN UP TO 4 ROOMS*
Lease fee of $4.99/mo. for second and each additional receiver. Complex/custom installation extra. Handling and delivery fee $19.95.
FREE DVR OR HD RECEIVER UPGRADE! ASK HOW.
$99 Value
Models may vary.
Skip commercials with a single click!
With activation of CHOICE XTRA™ package or above.† Programming, DVR service and/or HD Access fee commitments required.
FREE FOR 4 MONTHS*
Over 265 channels, including:
HBO 7 Channels
starz 12 Channels
SHOWTIME 9 Channels
cinemax 3 Channels
Just sign up for NFL SUNDAY TICKET
Just activate the PREMIER™ package when you purchase NFL SUNDAY TICKET™ for $74.99/mo. for 4 months.
• Local channels included in every package†
• 100% digital-quality picture and sound on every channel
• #1 in Customer Satisfaction‡
• Add access to the BEST channels in HD for just $9.99/mo.**
Number of channels varies by package selection.
‡Among the largest national cable and satellite providers. 2008 American Customer Satisfaction Index, University of Michigan Business School.
Offers end 10/31/08 and are based on approved credit. Credit card required. New customers only. Lease required.
Call 1-888-468-3056
and ask about our best offer of the year!
DIRECTV. SATELLITE TELEVISION

Credit card not required in MA and PA. †Eligibility for local channels based on service address. *To access DIRECTV HD programming, an HD Access fee ($9.99/mo.), a DIRECTV Slimline Dish, an HD Receiver and HD television equipment are required. **Only available for recorded programs. *PROGRAMMING OFFER: Featured package name and price: PREMIER $104.99/mo. 2008 NFL SUNDAY TICKET billed in four monthly installments of $74.99 each. In the fifth month, PREMIER package will automatically continue at the then-prevailing rate and DVR service will continue at $5.99/mo. unless customer calls DIRECTV to change equipment and/or service. NFL SUNDAY TICKET automatically continues each season at a special rate, unless customer calls to cancel prior to start of season. Blackout restrictions and other conditions apply. DIRECTV System has a feature which restricts access to channels. In certain markets, programming/pricing may vary. **INSTANT REBATE: Advanced equipment instant rebate requires activation of CHOICE XTRA($57.99/mo.) package or above. FAMILIAR ITEM or above. Independent or any qualifying international service bundle, which shall include PREFERRED CHOICE programming package. DVR service commitment ($5.99/mo.) required for DVR and HD DVR lease. HD Access fee ($9.99/mo.) required for HD and HD DVR lease. LIMIT ONE ADVANCED EQUIPMENT REBATE PER DIRECTV ACCOUNT. INSTALLATION: Standard professional installation only. Custom installation extra. SYSTEM LEASE: Purchase of 18 consecutive months (24 consecutive months for advanced receivers) of any DIRECTV base programming package ($29.99/mo. or above) or qualifying international services bundle required. FAILURE TO ACTIVATE ALL OF THE DIRECTV SYSTEM EQUIPMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EQUIPMENT LEASE ADDENDUM MAY RESULT IN A CHARGE OF $150 PER RECEIVER NOT ACTIVATED. IF YOU FAIL TO MAINTAIN YOUR PROGRAMMING COMMITMENT, DIRECTV MAY CHARGE A PRORATED FEE OF UP TO $480. RECEIVERS ARE AT ALL TIMES PROPERTY OF DIRECTV AND MUST BE RETURNED UPON CANCELLATION OF SERVICE, OR ADDITIONAL FEES MAY APPLY. VISIT directv.com OR CALL 1 800-DIRECTV FOR DETAILS. Programming, pricing, terms and conditions subject to change at any time. Pricing residential. Taxes not included. Receipt of DIRECTV programming is subject to the DIRECTV Customer Agreement; copy provided at directv.com/legal and in your first bill. HBO and Cinemax are registered service marks of Home Box Office, Inc. Starz and related channels and service marks are the property of Starz Entertainment Group LLC. SHOWTIME and related marks are registered trademarks of Showtime Networks, Inc., a CBS Company. NFL, the NFL Shield design and the NFL SUNDAY TICKET name and logo are trademarks of the NFL and its affiliates. Team names, logos and uniform designs are registered trademarks of the teams indicated. PHOTO CREDITS: National Treasure: Book of Secrets © Disney Enterprises, Inc. All Rights Reserved. SpongeBob SquarePants © 2008 Viacom International Inc. All Rights Reserved. Nickelodeon, SpongeBob SquarePants and all related titles, logos and characters are trademarks of Viacom International Inc. SpongeBob SquarePants created by Stephen Hillenburg. ©2008 DIRECTV, Inc. DIRECTV, the Cyclone Design logo, CHOICE XTRA, FAMILY and PREMIER are trademarks of DIRECTV, Inc. All other trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners.





SO VO SOUTHERN VOICE

HEALTH & FITNESS

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

Colon Cleansing: Is it for You?

By Beverley Segel

Internal detoxification is often neglected or misunderstood. Everyday we are exposed to toxins and pollutants in addition to the food we eat and the water we drink. Processed, overcooked foods and junk food add to the problem of longer transit times of food through our gut. At any time one might have from 3 to 8 pounds of undigested toxic waste (weight) sitting in our colons. Our stressful lifestyle also creates additional burdens on the digestive organs. The liver is our main filter, which is usually overworked. Colon cleansing gives the digestive tract a chance to be restored to a healthy level, optimizing our well-being. Colon irrigations can be an important healing activity available for a multitude of health problems, some of which are allergies, acne, constipation, irritable bowel, fibormyalgia, arthritis, overweight, potbelly, body odor, headaches, spastic colon, joint aches, chronic fatigue, depression and others.

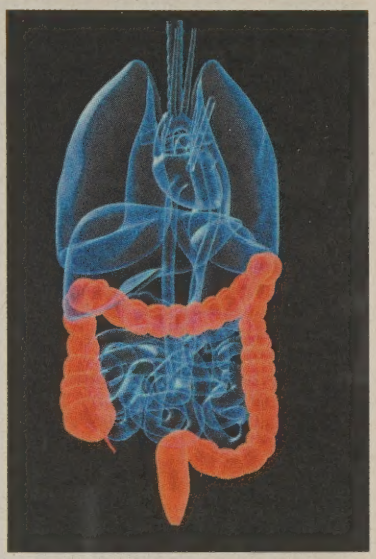
Sattva Yoga & Healing
2177 Briarcliff Rd.
Atlanta GA 30329
404-218-3273
www.SattvaHealing.com

Colon cleansing is not a new "fad", it was recommended and practiced 5-7000 years ago in Ayurvedic (Yogic) healing by placing a hollow reed in the rectum while standing against the current in the River Ganges. Not too long ago, enemas were standard procedure for medical doctors for treating many common ailments. Dr. Bernard Jensen, best selling author of Foods That Heal and the Guide to Better Bowel Care advocated regular bowel cleansing using an enema kit. 25 years ago Dr Jenson collaborated with Eldon Lowder, founder of Ultimate Concepts, to design a home enema kit often referred to as a colema board, and after a lot of encouragement from users Eldon developed an FDA approved professional colon cleansing device making colon cleansing available to a broader audience, seeking complimentary health care options.

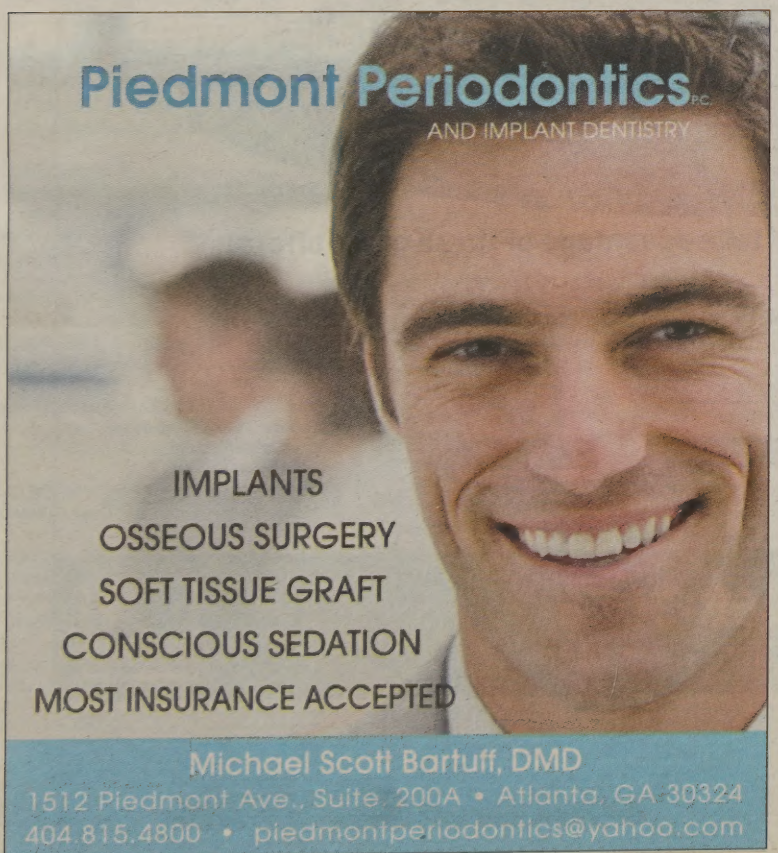
In order to work your way toward better health one must look to simple, safe and effective means of direct bowel cleansing and indirectly other tissue cleansing through bowel management. Underactive elimination organs influence the development of illness and disease over time. Colon cleansing in conjunction with improvements in lifestyle, nutrition, personal habits, and thinking will gently facilitate progress along the health continuum.

One should always use the services of a Certified Colon Hydrotherapist, at a pristine facility that operates within the suggested protocols of the International Association of Colon Hydrotherapists www.iact.org.

***Beverley Segel** is a Certified Colon Hydrotherapist, Licensed Massage Therapist, Yoga & Ayurvedic Health Educator, and Registered Yoga Teacher.*



Colon cleansing eliminates toxins from the body, helping promote good health.



SmartLipo™
FDA approved, minimally invasive, outpatient, little downtime, no general anesthesia, relatively painless!
Trust your body to the best!
skin AESTHETICS MED SPA
50% OFF IPL and LASER HAIR REMOVAL
We are the ONLY Derm/Plastic team using the Revolutionary LASER LIPOSCULPTURE
Cynthia Abbott, M.D.
Board Certified Dermatologic Surgeon
Lisa DiFrancesco, M.D.
Board Certified Plastic Surgeon
Laura J. Mills D.D.S
Medical Director
For a FREE consultation
Call 404-816-3933
SkinAtlanta.com
Lindbergh Plaza • 700 Morosgo Dr. • Atlanta, GA 30324
OTHER SERVICES
• MICRODERMABRASION • LASER HAIR, VEIN, SPOT REMOVAL • BOTOX®
• ISOLAZ ACNE TREATMENT • PHOTOFACIALS • PEELS • FILLERS
MENTION 'SV608' FOR SPECIAL OFFER WHEN YOU CALL TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

The Relationship of Periodontal Diseases to Other Diseases

Evidence suggests a possible link between periodontal diseases and other systemic conditions that can negatively affect a person's overall wellness, such as diabetes and heart disease.

Bacteria associated with periodontal diseases have been linked **to heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and preterm or low weight births.** The bacteria travel through the body's veins and arteries using them as a highway system to link to other parts of the body. Periodontal bacteria can also spread from the oral cavity to the rest of the body, including the lungs and can cause respiratory diseases associated with **chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases,** the sixth leading cause of mortality in the United States.

No matter where bacteria travels in the body, the immune system will respond by sending white blood cell to battle the bacteria. These white blood cells release chemicals that create an inflammatory response. Inflammation can damage tissues. Scientists now understand that inflammation causes or complicates many diseases, **including pancreatic cancer** and **Alzheimer's disease.** For example, inflammation can damage tissues in the brain which increase a patient's risk of developing Alzheimer's. Inflammation from gum disease has also been linked to **arthritis.** Many scientists believe that inflammation is responsible for the development of **rheumatoid arthritis** in some of the estimated 2.1 million people suffering from the condition. Today, the level of inflammation in your body can be evaluated with a C-reactive protein test from a blood sample.

Autoimmune diseases can have side effects related to oral health. Conditions such as Sjogrens syndrome, Lichens planus, pemphigus, pemphigiod, HIV/AIDS, and Erythema multiforme can present many different oral complications. Advise your dental professional if you suffer from an autoimmune disease. Your dental professional can work with you and your physician to help control any periodontal infections and adverse drug interactions. Maintaining good oral health provides the ability to eat and speak with confidence and contributes to your overall wellness. This includes maintaining a regular oral hygiene routine, including daily brushing, flossing and regular dental visits. Brushing and flossing is the best way to prevent the development and progression of periodontal disease.

— American Academy of Periodontology

Vitality is only a call away...

Optimize Health w/ Testosterone and Growth Hormone

Do you have . . .

- A decrease in sex drive?
- A decrease in the desire for activity & exercise?
- A decrease in muscle mass and an increase in fat?
- A decrease in mental quickness & sharpness?
- Moderate depression and irritability?
- A decrease in energy?
- A decrease in sexual function?

Hormone decline can cause these symptoms and are felt as early as age 35. Hormones start to decline in the late 20s. Symptoms are easily and safely corrected in 2 to 4 weeks by replacing lost hormones.

RESTORE YOUTH & ENDURANCE SAFELY

reNEWMAN the science of anti aging

This treatment provided by experienced licensed physicians

770-955-7333 • www.renewman.com

Yoga & Healing

Sattva

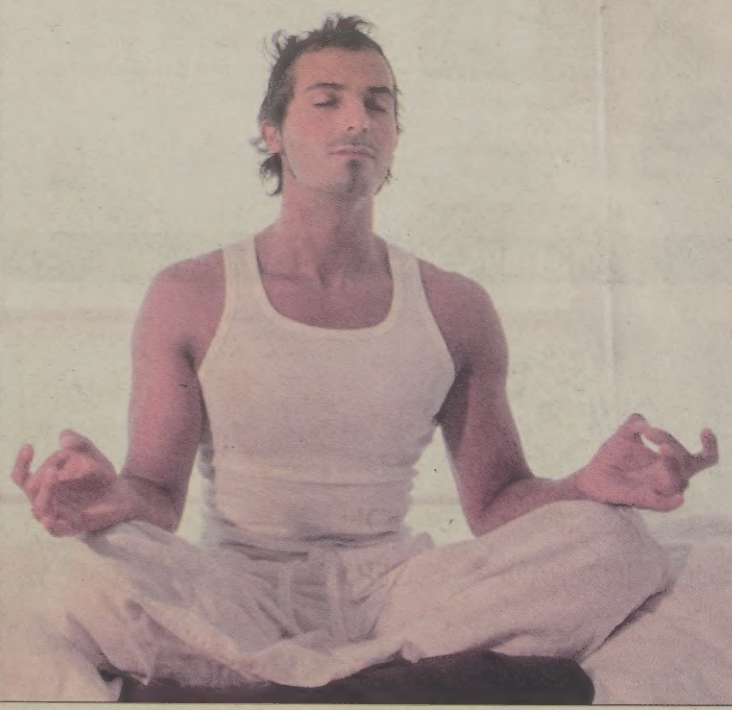
Find Balance. Naturally.

Yoga
Colonics
Ayurveda
Meditation
Medical Massage
Weight Loss
Detox

SattvaHealing.com 404-218-3273

2177 Briarcliff Road (corner of Briarcliff & Lavista)
Atlanta, GA 30329

$5.00 OFF COLONICS FOR SOVO READERS
WHEN YOU MENTION THIS AD



GEORGIA TECH FERST CENTER FOR THE ARTS

your ticket to great entertainment

THE CAPITOL STEPS

Friday, October 3, 5:30 p.m.
New Show Added!

The Capitol Steps is the only group in America that attempts to be funnier than Congress. Taking a stab at anyone within reach of their verbal swords, these Washington insiders (representing 62 years of collective House and Senate staff experience) have recorded 27 albums, including their latest, *Springtime For Liberals*. Political satire at its best!

"They're the best. There's no one like them, no one in their league." –Larry King, CNN

EAST VILLAGE OPERA COMPANY

Friday, October 10, 8 p.m.

Rock meets opera with the exhilarating and adventurous music of the East Village Opera Company. This 11-person group, comprised of a five-piece band, a string quartet, and two vocalists, reinvents classic opera arias into bona fide rock anthems. The band offers hard-hitting arrangements of opera's greatest hits, including "La donna e mobile" from *Rigoletto*, "Habanera" from *Carmen*, and "Nessun dorma" from *Turandot*.

"The group's charisma is inescapable and infectious, they electrify the classics for a new generation" –Time Out New York

sponsored by Georgia Arts

Call now for tickets! On the Georgia Tech campus at 349 Ferst Drive

404-894-9600 www.ferstcenter.org

"The gay teenage SEX COMEDY of your dreams" – Time Out New York

MEET DIRECTOR TODD STEPHENS AT THE FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENING SHOWS – SEPT. 26 AND 27!

ANOTHERGAYMOVIE.COM SOUNDTRACK ON iTunes tlareleasing.com

OPENS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26!
CALL THEATRE FOR SHOWTIMES

Landmark Theatres Midtown Art Cinema 931 Monroe Drive Atlanta, GA 30308 (678) 495-1424

HORIZON THEATRE COMPANY

got guilt?

ALTAR BOYZ

confess your sins at

book by Kevin Del Aguila
Music by Gary Adler & Michael Patrick Walker
Conceived by Marc Kessler & Ken Davenport

SEPT 12 - NOV 16, 2008
404.584.7450 www.horizontheatre.com

We Take Fresh Seriously™

Chicago's Nancy's Pizza

We Want You To Be Happy And Completely Satisfied With Your Order. So Our Promise To You Is:

If It's Not Right, We'll Fix It!

Franchise Owner

Here's What Makes Our Pizza Fresh

- Fresh Dough Made From Scratch Everyday
- Fresh Vegetable Pizza Toppings Delivered Daily
- Fresh Imported Spices From All Over The World
- Fresh Pizza Sauce Made Daily On Our Own Premises

Award Winning Chicago Pizza Now In Atlanta!

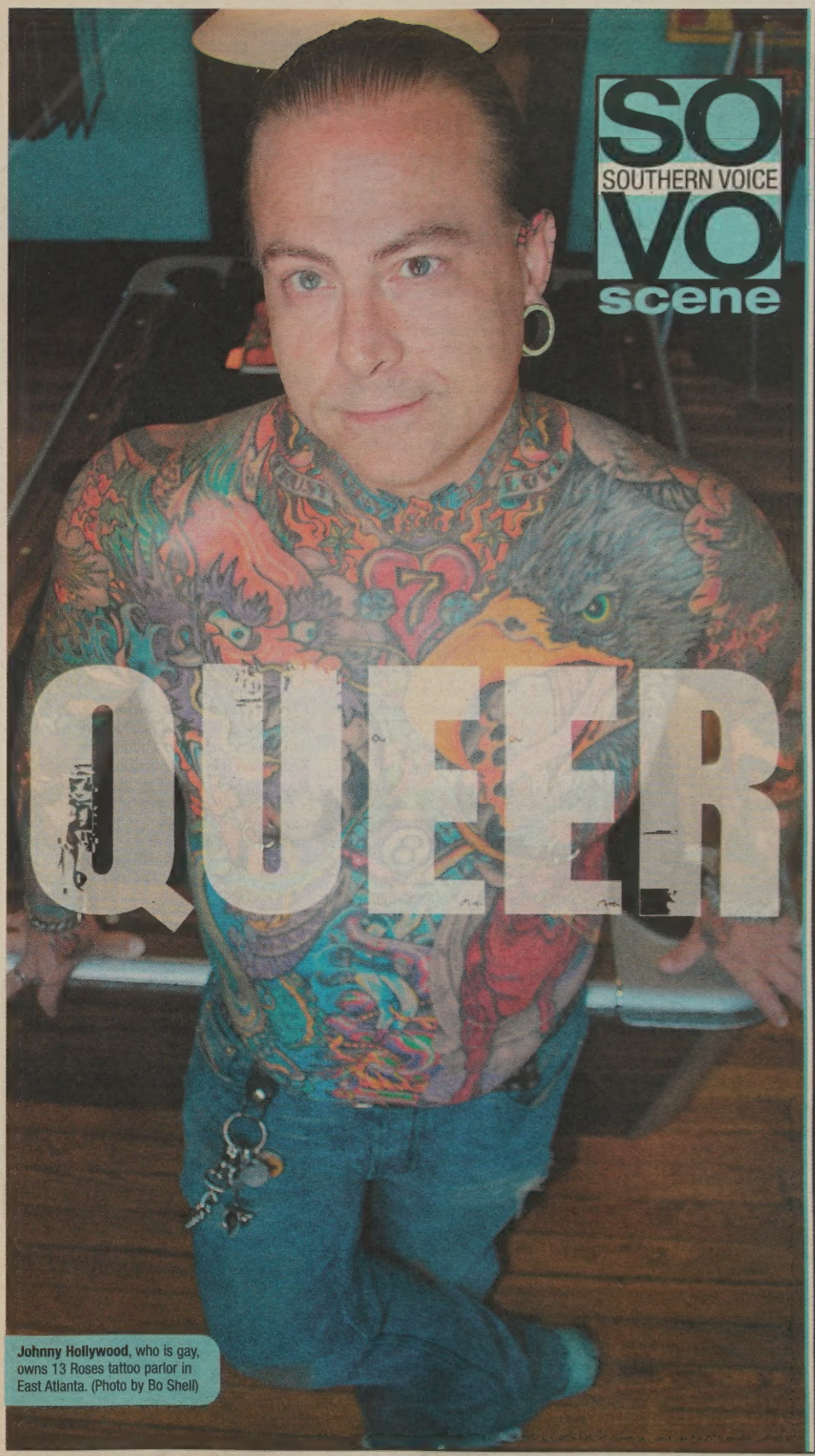
$4 off Any Order
404-885-9199

$5 off Any Order
404-885-9199

265 Ponce De Leon • Midtown (404) 885-9199
Online Ordering: www.TheBestPizzainAtlanta.com • Ask About Our Loyalty Club!

QUEER INK

Tattoos create 'powerful statement' of identity



Johnny Hollywood, who is gay, owns 13 Roses tattoo parlor in East Atlanta. (Photo by Bo Shell)

ANY MAN WHO'S EVER BEEN IN the restroom of an Atlanta restaurant or gay bar and stolen a brief, innocent glance at the penis of Ed "Johnson," was probably caught in the act.

"You can always tell who's peeking," says Johnson, who asked that his real last name not be used because he is not out to family members. "It's fun, if they do get a peek, to watch their reaction."

Johnson, 53, used to have insecurities about people seeing his penis, and during the years that he dated women, "a lot of girls wouldn't touch it." Throughout childhood Johnson wondered why his penis was heavily scarred, and he learned during a 1983 visit to a urologist that it was caused by his circumcision at birth.

Years later, Johnson looked into getting laser treatment to remove the scars, but skin experts recommended he research cosmetic tattooing.

Last October, after one tattoo artist had already refused to work on his penis, Johnson was walking through East Point and passed Southside Tattoo.

"I figured, I'm just going to get up the nerve and ask," he recalls. Three tattoo artists turned Johnson down before one agreed to draw a red, orange and yellow flame on the top side of his penis shaft.

"He said it was going to hurt like hell, and it did," says Johnson, who adds that the artist put up a screen for privacy.

"Everybody out there was listening for me to come across the top of that screen," Johnson says.

The 45-minute procedure helped erase a lifetime of aesthetic discomfort for Johnson, and has even made urinating entertaining.

"It's certainly a bit more amusing to look at," Johnson says. "And in a clothing-optional environment, it certainly gets a lot of attention."

JOHNSON ISN'T THE ONLY GAY metro Atlantan who has who has permanently inked a private area of his body. For artistic rather than medical purposes, Denise Moss traveled to Canada earlier this year to get a tattoo on an area she describes as her "left ovary."

Moss and her partner of 20 years were married in Vancouver in July 2007, and the couple returned to Canada in April for Moss to get tattooed by Justina Kervel, a famed tattoo artist who appeared on Season 3 of "The 'L' Word" giving Shane and Carmen matching tattoos.

Moss was prepared for the tattoo to be painful, but she says Kervel's hands were like silk as she inked a smoky image of the Vancouver beach monument where Moss and her partner were married.

"I almost fell asleep," Moss says of Kervel's delicate touch. Moss already had a previous tattoo, but she says, "This one means a whole lot more to me.

"It's more like a tribute for my partner," she says.

Tattoos are a popular way to pay homage to loved ones. Jerone King didn't really consider himself to be the tattoo type of guy, until he lost his brother and best friend to AIDS and decided to memorialize them by getting the red AIDS ribbon on both of his calves.

"I knew eventually someone would ask me about it, and it

Please see **TATTOOS** on **Page 43**

Artist Chas, Page 37 • 'Another Gay Sequel,' Page 39 • Ani DiFranco, Page 41

Acclaimed lesbian writer makes two weekend appearances in Atlanta

SO VO SOUTHERN VOICE **SCENE IN BRIEF**

Linda Villarosa (Photo from lindavillarosa.com)

After using her writing to tackle such real-life issues as parenting, preventing the spread of HIV and improving women's health, acclaimed lesbian journalist Linda Villarosa turns her pen to the world of fiction with her debut novel, "Passing for Black."

Villarosa visits Atlanta this weekend for a Sept. 27 brunch in honor of ZAMI scholarship recipients, then reads from and signs copies of "Passing for Black" at the lesbian/feminist Charis Books & More Sept. 28.

"Linda Villarosa has been a powerful voice in our community for a long time," says Kerrie Lynn, program and marketing coordinator for Charis. "While she was [in Atlanta], she wanted to do something at the feminist bookstore, and we just can't wait to have her here at Charis."

A former correspondent for the New York Times and executive editor of Essence Magazine, Villarosa came out of the closet in the black women's magazine in a 1991 article co-written with her mother. Since then, she has continued being a leading voice on women's and African-American issues as the author of books such as "Body & Soul: The Black Women's Guide to Physical Health & Emotional Well Being" and "Finding Our Way: The Teen Girls' Survival Guide."

In her first stab at fiction, Villarosa explores the intersection of race and sexual identity in "Passing for Black," which the author considers a coming-out novel. The novel centers around Angela Wright, a young black magazine writer who jeopardizes her engagement to a male college professor when she begins to pursue a relationship with a woman who happens to be her fiancé's academic rival. Published by Kensington Books, "Passing for Black" is already in high demand at Charis, Lynn says.

"It's just been received really well in the community," Lynn says. "I think a lot of people in our community have been aware of her and aware of her work for quite some time."

ZAMI Community Brunch for 2008 Audre Lorde scholars
Sept. 27, 11 a.m.
Bellissima Lounge
560-B Amsterdam Ave.
$25, $10 for students
www.zami.org

'Passing for Black' book signing
Sept. 28, 6 p.m.
Charis Books & More
1189 Euclid Ave.
404-524-0304
www.charisbooksandmore.com
www.lindavillarosa.com

– Ryan Lee

Independent women to rock Dahlonega campground

The sweet sounds of female singer-songwriters will fill the mountain air surrounding Dahlonega during the first weekend in October as Indiegrrl Fest Georgia comes to Swiftwaters, a lesbian campground.

"When we have events like this, we try to set up a different mix of performers," says Vicki Blankenship, chair of the festival and one of its performers. "This is probably more of a mix between Americana and folk rock sort of music."

Organizers hope for a success and are already planning next year's event. Performers this year include Rosary, Tracy Rice, Eva Gael, Kym Berry & Wendy Sullivan, Melissa Reaves, Renee Mixon, Hollin Gammage, Karen E. Reynolds, Ronnda Cadle and the String Poets, as well as comedians Michelle Thomas and Shelly Ryan.

Blankenship says space for attendees is filling up quickly, so full festival passes might not be available at the gate.

"Because of the space limitations at Swiftwaters, we might end up selling more day passes because there might not be enough spots available," she said. "I would hate for someone to come up expecting to camp and there not to be any spaces available. So if you want to camp, and don't have a full ticket, call ahead first."

Vicki Blankenship (Photo courtesy IndieGuitarists.com)

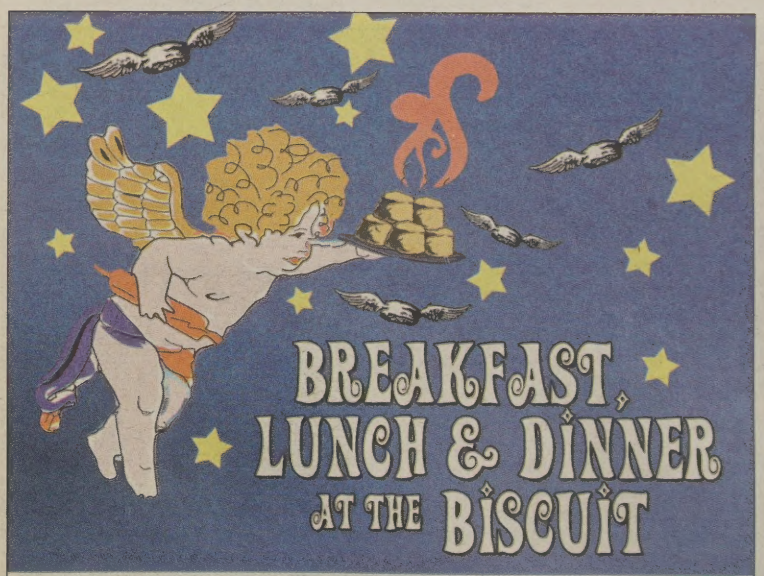
Indiegrrl Georgia Fest 2008
Oct. 3-6
$85 for three days, $20 for a day pass
Swiftwaters Campground
830 Swiftwaters Road, Dahlonega
1-888-808-5021
www.swiftwaters.com

The Indiegrrl Georgia Fest supports female artists, music therapy and cancer research.

– Matt Schafer

Charis Books and More
Your source for women's and LGBT music, books, and movies!

Little 5 Points, 1189 Euclid Ave. NE Atlanta, 30307
404-524-0304 www.charisbooksandmore.com



the FLYING BISCUIT cafe

CANDLER PARK · 1655 MCLENDON AVE · 404.687.8888
MIDTOWN · 1001 PIEDMONT AVE · 404.874.8887
CATERING HOTLINE: 404.849.2283 · WWW.FLYINGBISCUIT.COM

314 E. Howard Ave.
Decatur, GA 30030
404-377-2000

feast on

SoVo Savers

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER ONLY

Create the perfect night out with

FEAST & DIALOG IN THE DARK

Dinner & an exciting show for under $50

BUY ANY
FEAST GIFT CARD
AND RECEIVE
2 FREE TICKETS to
DIALOG IN THE DARK

SO SOUTHERN VOICE VO SAVERS

$100 gift cards for $50
$50 gift cards for $25
$30 gift cards for $15

Purchase your discount card at
sovo.com/savers

Limited to the first 50 respondents.

We Make Desserts for Atlanta's Finest Restaurants!
LET US MAKE YOURS!
• Commitment Cakes
• Birthday Cakes
• Gourmet Desserts (Whole or by the Slice)
• Wholesale
"Best Desserts in Atlanta" — AOL City Guide
"Best Desserts" 2 years in a row — Citysearch
Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm
Saturday: 11am-5pm
Dekalb Farmers Markets
Ponce de Leon
Rio Circle
Lavista Drive
SOUTHERN SWEETS BAKERY
SOUTHERN SWEETS BAKERY * 404-373-8752 *
186 Rio Circle, Decatur • 404-373-8752
JUST A MINUTE FROM THE FARMERS MARKET
www.southernsweets.com

BEST BRUNCH 2007: SOUTHERN VOICE
radial
GREAT BREAKFAST
GOOD FOR THE PLANET
certification by the Green Restaurant Association. find out the benefits at: dinegreen.com
SO SOUTHERN VOICE VO SAVERS
1530 Dekalb Avenue www.radial.us 404.659.6594

RESTAURANT LISTINGS

Agave
Eclectic Southwestern
242 Boulevard • 404-588-0006
www.agaverestaurant.com

Cafe di Sol
Eclectic cafe dining
640 N. Highland Ave. • 404-724-0711
www.cafedisol.com

The Flying Biscuit Café
Eclectic breakfast and dinner
1001 Piedmont Ave. • 404-874-8887
www.flyingbiscuit.com

Jagger's
Pizza, wings and salads
1799 Briarcliff Rd.
Sage Hill Shopping Center
404-876-8880

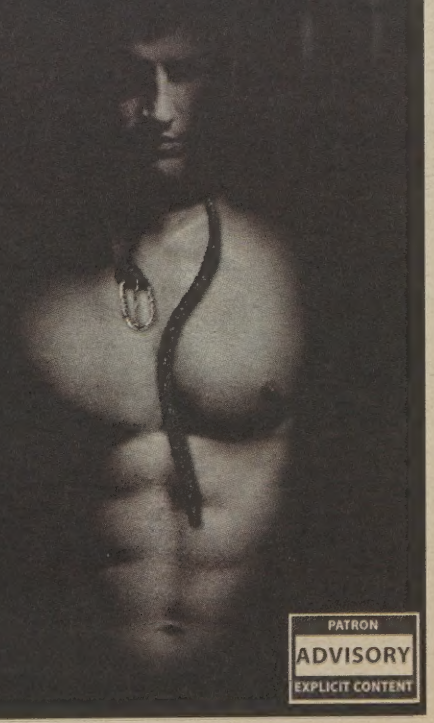
Las Margaritas
Mexican and Latin fare
1842 Cheshire Bridge Rd. • 404-873-4464
www.lasmargaritasati.com

Marlow's Tavern
American tavern fare.
950 W. Peachtree St. • 404-815-0323
www.marlowstavern.com

Radial Cafe
Eclectic cafe dining
1530 DeKalb Ave. • 404-659-6594
www.radial.us

Southern Sweets Bakery
Lunch and desserts
186 Rio Cir., Decatur • 404-373-8752
www.southernsweets.com

SO SOUTHERN VOICE VO

"Riveting...hypnotic...brilliantly staged...the entire audience is holding its collective breath..."
- San Francisco Chronicle
fINN IN THE UNDERWORLd
By Jordan Harrison
Directed by Freddie Ashley

September 4 - October 4, 2008
ACTOR'S EXPRESS
www.actors-express.com
404-607-SHOW (7469)
PATRON ADVISORY EXPLICIT CONTENT

Public access

Artist Chas just wants to be 'part of the experience'

SO VO SOUTHERN VOICE **ART**
MIKE FLEMING

ATLANTA VISUAL ARTIST CHAS WANTS TO intrigue and inspire you as you go about the business of your everyday life. And chances are, he already has.

With works of varied styles from muted rustic murals to bold surrealism popping up in Atlanta, you may have stopped and taken a second look at Chas' framed works at places like Thrive restaurant, where his artwork takes center stage, including a large piece of "fantasy montage." He has also done commercial and artistic works for corporate collections, including Coca Cola, Turner Broadcasting, the Atlanta Ballet and the Atlanta Botanical Garden.

In other words, people from all walks of life can enjoy his compelling visuals, even if they've never set foot in a gallery.

"Most visual artists tend to head right into the gallery arena, and I haven't done that," says Chas, who goes by only one name. "I enjoy working with designers and architects on their concepts for a whole space, because I like my work to be a part of the experience.

"When people go into one of these places, maybe somebody might stop and take a look in an environment that they just wind up in as part of their day."

WHAT MAY BE MOST SURPRISING ABOUT Chas' stunning, painterly works are that his flowing, richly textured pieces of art are comprised completely of photographs. The montages are realized through what Chas calls "an organic process."

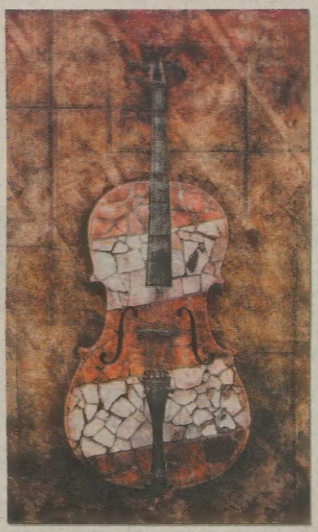
"I shoot every image, and I shoot textures like cracking paint or washes or whatever, and I combine them digitally to get the effect," he says. "I overlay the textures over the photos digitally, and it shows through, softens the photo, and you get a combination of photo and texture."

His latest accomplishment — a 20-foot, backlit mural on Plexiglas that wraps the bar at Sweet Georgia's Juke Joint in Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport — captures the essence of the state's music scene. The restaurant and bar are decorated with other framed works by Chas, as well as album covers from the 1970s. The juke box features tunes from the '60s, '70s, '80s and '90s.

Chas got in on the ground floor of designing the space. He was commissioned by and worked directly with the interior designer who conceived the musical theme and color palette.

"Once we settled on that, I just started shooting," he says. "I went to Athens, Macon, Little Five Points, just anywhere and looked around all over to see what represented different styles of music — jazz bands, rock, every genre."

Atlanta artist Chas and his musically themed photographic montages were part of the square-one design concept for Hartsfield-Jackson Airport's new Sweet Georgia's Juke Joint. Top left inset: The 20-foot mural before it was installed above the bar. (Artwork and photos courtesy Chas)



One of Chas' other photographic montages that hangs in Sweet Georgia's Juke Joint. (Artwork and photo courtesy Chas)

The surreal 'fantasy montage' at Thrive restaurant in Atlanta is already drawing attention to Chas' richly textured photographic works. (Artwork courtesy Chas)

CHAS, 49, ISN'T NEW TO HIS CRAFT OR TO Atlanta. Far from an "overnight success," he came to Atlanta in 1984 and studied design at the Portfolio Center. He went to New York City and apprenticed as a photography studio manager, and from 1987 to 1994, he owned a commercial photography studio in Atlanta.

"I always also pursued my own work outside the studio," he says. "Back when I was working on film, I was working with a lot of alternative processes, like hand-brushing developer onto photographic papers so that the image would only develop on those areas."

Originally from Annapolis, Md., Chas says that these days, he's inspired by travel, and that his work took a new direction with the rise of digital photography. What he isn't inspired by is the fact that he's gay, but he's willing to discuss it.

"I don't know if the term 'gay' has anything to do with anything about me," he says. "I happen to be gay, but it hasn't done any more or less for me as an artist or in any other way.

"But then again, we could talk about the concept of the 'gay gene.' Maybe I should attribute all of it to being gay," he laughs. "But no, I don't think of it that way."

But perhaps the best lesson the general public can learn from this artist is his "stop and smell the roses" approach to inspiration.

"I look at everything wherever I go, and I'm inspired by almost anything you can come across — graffiti, a sign, an old car..."

So the next time you're stuck in the airport, stop and see what Chas sees, and it may make an otherwise frustrating wait worth every minute.

Chas
www.chasfineart.com

Another silly movie

More is less with the potty humor and adolescent jokes in 'Sequel'

Lady Bunny (left) wets down 'The Jaspers,' a rival bitch gang, in 'Another Gay Sequel: Gays Gone Wild.' (Photo by Christopher Stephens courtesy Regent Releasing)

SO VO SOUTHERN VOICE **FILM**
MIKE FLEMING

THERE'S CAMP, AND THERE'S CRAP. IF YOU LIKED "Another Gay Movie," the zany film that drew big audiences and loved-it-or-hated-it reviews in 2006, you still might not like "Another Gay Sequel: Gays Gone Wild."

It takes a certain sense of humor to appreciate campy, sick laughs. Not everyone likes John Waters' aesthetic, or the "Scary Movie" and "American Pie" sense of humor, for example.

In the first "Another Gay Movie" installment, writer-director Todd Stephens balanced shock and schlock pretty well. He brings back the characters from the first film for "Another Gay Sequel" and sends them on Spring Break. Atlanta goes along for the ride beginning Sept. 26 at Landmark Midtown Art Cinema.

"It's about a group off friends going to Fort Lauderdale, and reuniting after spending the previous summer together [in the first film]," Stephens recently told the South Florida Blade, a sister newspaper to Southern Voice. "They come across this contest called 'Gays Gone Wild,' about who can have the most sex over the course of the vacation. And that challenges each of them to figure out their parameters of how casual sex fits into their lives, with two of them being a monogamous couple."

A camp comedy with a message? Not quite. Overwrought attempts to address any real concerns are far from enlightening, and the "lesson" of the film — that we should each be proud of who we are, warts and all — comes way too late for us to care.

THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE MOVIE'S BASE HUMOR crosses the line from darkly humorous to just not funny. Unless you just came out, the one-liners fall flat and the inside jokes are old hat. Lowbrow potty humor (including shots of unwiped butts and songs like "There's a Crab Party Going On in Your Pubic Hair") is the calling card of the film.

Take the extended vomiting sequence. Andy, the self-described "horn dog" of the bunch, finds out the guy in the puppy costume he's having sex with is actually his dad. The son barfs, the dad barfs, an onlooker barfs, a passerby barfs. You get the picture way before the scene ends.

If all gay men were perpetually in seventh grade, "Sequel" would be a sure hit. Done well, the camp genre can be funny, and droves are predicted in theaters to see if this one hits the mark. Bare behinds, simulated sex and healthy swimsuit packages abound, so some may attend just for that.

Stephens tells the South Florida Blade that humor carries the movie.

"It's really meant to make people laugh," he says. "But exploring the fact that all of us, being gay men, have to figure out if we're going to be monogamous? ... are we going to be promiscuous? ... what does it all mean? And then Andy ... goes down with the plan of having as much sex as possible, but meets someone he has feelings for, for the first time, and they all learn and grow and blah blah blah."

"Blah blah blah" being the operative phrase.

THE FOUR MAIN CHARACTERS ARE ALL BACK, but just one of the original actors. Stephens and producer Derek Curl lament the fact that Michael Carbonaro, Jonathan Chase, and Mitch Morris decided not to reprise their roles. The opening sequence, a take on a scene from "The Wizard of Oz," acknowledges the switcheroo in a lighthearted way that works.

Unfortunately, the actor returning from the original film is Jonah Blechman, the scenery-chewer who plays Nico, an over-the-top queen whose next ensemble is more outrageous than the last. His hair and makeup were their own characters in the first movie, and they are tortured to new heights in "Sequel."

Blechman is credited as an executive producer this time around. He also earns top billing and extended screen time. That includes a showcase of Blechman's singing and dancing abilities, which are actually quite commendable.

The production numbers in which they are displayed, however, are not. Five minutes of song and dance about golden showers, including yellow umbrellas and urinating background dancers, prove less than entertaining.

GAY CELEBRITIES RETURN AS PART OF THE formula this time as well. From cameos by porn stars like Colton Ford and Michael Lucas to full-scale supporting roles by Ru Paul, Lady Bunny and Perez Hilton, the guest appearances really works in "Another Gay Sequel."

One of the funniest scenes in the movie takes place when Ford starts a sex scene as the butch fantasy top he is known for and ends it in a screaming hissy fit. Why he's so upset is juvenile, but we won't spoil the joke here.

Ru Paul and Hilton steal their scenes. Ru Paul is hilarious as the activities director for the Spring Break event. Hilton, who plays himself at first, suffers a bump on the head while performing fellatio on a priest ("American Idol" finalist Jim Verraros) that renders him an anti-sex religious zealot.

So there are some laughs in "Another Gay Sequel," and fans of the first film will likely check it out. What isn't funny are inane product placements that literally stop the plot, and the implication throughout the film that viewers should watch for a third in the "Another Gay" franchise.

Producer Curl confirms that the seeming travesty "Another Gay Sequel Strikes Back: Gays in Space" is a reality.

'Another Gay Sequel: Gays Gone Wild'
Opens Sept. 26
Landmark Midtown Art Cinema
931 Monroe Drive
678-495-1424
www.landmarktheatres.com

Professional Directory

For more area professionals, turn to page 42

JIM THOMASON
LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST
Specializing in Pain Relief and Stress Reduction
GA License 000414
Credit Cards Accepted
www.jamesthomason.com
404.441.7648

Chalk Line
Chalk Line Construction, LLC
678-296-8902
Come Visit Us at Our New Website
www.thechalkline.biz
Design • Renovation • Repair

PAIGE NORWOOD JENNINGS
ATTORNEY AT LAW
PARTNER PACKAGE $599
• 2 simple wills • 2 living wills
• 2 health care powers of attorney
• 2 financial powers of attorney
• MEDIATION
• DIVORCE
• CUSTODY
• NAME CHANGES
404-350-9092
http://www.paigejennings.com

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS?
Obtain Debt Relief Now!
CHAPTER 7 & 13 BANKRUPTCY
STOP: • Foreclosure • Collection calls • Repossessions • Garnishments
DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP PACKAGE
• 2 simple wills
• 2 financial powers of attorney
• 2 healthcare powers of attorney
• 2 living wills
KEITH EADY & ASSOCIATES LLC
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
404-633-1997 • www.keitheady.com

Discount
RATES
without discount
SERVICE.
It's no accident more people trust State Farm to insure their cars. Call today.
Cleo L Meyer, Agent
1447 Peachtree St NE
Atlanta, GA 30309-3001
Bus: 404-817-0960
cleo.meyer.mdhi@statefarm.com
LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR STATE FARM IS THERE.
Providing Insurance and Financial Services
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company (Not in NJ), Bloomington, IL
"GAY OWNED and OPERATED"
P040034 12/04

MY FAVORITE MECHANIC IS A WOMAN
FULL SERVICE AND REPAIR
foreign & domestic
1618 DeKalb Ave. 404.371.9912

• Attorneys
• Automotive Care
• Insurance
• Health
• Fitness
• Home Improvement
• Real Estate
• Travel
Find it in the SOUTHERN VOICE DIRECTORY
To advertise, call 404.876.1819 and ask to speak to a sales representative.

Where Your Dreams Can Come True
Donor Insemination Services
A Lesbian-Facilitated Program at the
FEMINIST WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER
• Optimizing Fertility through On-Site Ultrasound Technology
• 23 years healthcare experience
• Holistic MD available
• Supportive, caring environment
• Fertility & Prenatal Education
• Partner participation encouraged
580 14th St., NW, Atlanta
Call Gail, Program Coordinator
404-874-7551 ext. 118
DIProgram@atlfwhc.org

The Neighborhood Electrician
MICHAEL JOHNSON
Licensed Electrician
404-520-0407
Specializing in Existing Homes for 8 Years!
Experienced in over 3,000 Atlanta Homes!
From Simple Repairs and Upgrades to Complete Electrical Restoration Projects!
Ethical Approach, No High Pressure!
Small Company and Personal Service!

NEED A LAWYER?
• Personal Injury
• Wrongful Death
• Workers Comp
• Criminal Defense
• DUI/Traffic
• Marital/Divorce
• Bankruptcy
• Foreclosure
• Immigration
• All Legal Problems
WE ARE HERE TO HELP
A.A.A. Attorney Referral Service
404-252-8808
1-800-260-1546

LIVE OUT LOUD FITNESS
presents
A Boot Camp with Integrity
$80 per month / 1 month commitment
2 x per week @ 5:30am • Decatur area
404-293-2184
www.liveoutloudfitness.com
Lianne Horne, Certified Personal Trainer

SO SOUTHERN VOICE VO NIGHTLIFE

BAR & CLUB GUIDE

3-LEGGED COWBOY
931 Monroe Drive
404-876-0001

AMSTERDAM/THE SPOT
Amsterdam Walk
404-892-2227

ATTRAXXIONS
393 Marietta St., 404-745-8043

BAZZAAR
654 Peachtree St.
404-885-7505

BELLISSIMA
560 Amsterdam Ave.
404-917-0220

BLAKE'S ON THE PARK
227 10th St., 404-892-5786

BJ'S ROOSTERS
2345 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
404-634-5895

THE BODY SHOP
2675 Johnson Road NE
404-636-1233

BULLDOGS
893 Peachtree St.
404-872-3025

BURKHART'S
1492-F Piedmont Ave. (Ansley Sq.), 404-872-4403

CHAPARRAL
2715 Buford Highway
404-634-3737

CLUB 708
708 Spring St., 404-874-8125

CLUB EUROPE
4401 Presidential Pkwy.
Doraville, 770-452-1240

CLUB MIAMI
3011 Buford Highway
404-929-9991

EAGLE
308 Ponce De Leon Ave.
404-873-2453

FELIX'S ON THE SQUARE
1510-G Piedmont Rd.
(Ansley Sq.), 404-249-7899

FRIENDS ON PONCE
736 Ponce De Leon Ave.
404-817-3820

HALO
617 W. Peachtree St
404-962-7333

THE HAZE@TRADEMARK
91 Broad St., 404-688-HAZE

HERETIC
2069 Cheshire Bridge Rd.
404-325-3061

LE BUZZ
585 Franklin Rd, Marietta
770-424-1337

MARY'S
1287 Glenwood Ave.
404-624-4411

MODEL-T
699 Ponce de Leon Ave.
404-872-2209

MY SISTERS' ROOM
1271 Glenwood Ave.
myspace.com/mysistersroom

NEW ORDER
1544 Piedmont Rd (Ansley)
404-874-8247

OPERA
1150-B Peachtree St.
404-874-0428

OPUS ONE
1086 Alco St., 404-634-6478

OSCAR'S ATLANTA
1510-C Piedmont Ave.
(Ansley Sq.) / 404-874-7748

PARIS DECATUR
308 W. Ponce De Leon, Decatur
404-687-1965

PHASE ONE
4933 Memorial Drive
678-296-0678

STAGE DOOR
4431 Hugh Howell Rd.
Tucker / 770-414-9292

SUTRA LOUNGE
1136 Crescent Ave. NE
404-607-1160

SWINGING RICHARDS
1400 Northside Drive
404-352-0532

TOWER II
735 Ralph McGill Blvd.
404-523-1535

TRAXX
1287 Columbia Drive
404-870-9002

TRIPPS
1931 Piedmont Cir.
404-724-0067

WETBAR, 960 Spring St.
404-745-9494

THE WILD MUSTANG
2115 Faulkner Rd.
404-844-8800

WOOFS, 2425 Piedmont Rd.
404-869-9422

Escape the weekly rut

Social Tuesdays offers new outlet for mixing and mingling

By RYAN LEE
rlee@sovo.com

Kurt Edwins and **Chris Coleman** join forces to bring Atlanta's gay men Social Tuesdays, a mixer at a new venue each week. (Photo courtesy Coleman)

CHRIS COLEMAN IS ADEPT AT RECOGNIZING, and satisfying, the appetite of Atlanta's gay partygoers.

As head of C2 Productions, Coleman is helping keep the local gay dance scene alive with his monthly parties at Opera. Now he's preparing to cater to gay people craving more social opportunities outside of bars and nightclubs.

"I have noticed there has been a tremendous amount of people looking for something different," Coleman says. "I'm just adding something to the scene that I think guys are really hungry for."

Coleman and business partner Kurt Edwins unveil their latest venture, Social Tuesdays, with a dinner and mixer at Geisha House in Atlantic Station on Sept. 30. Each week, Social Tuesdays is set to gather at an upscale Atlanta venue for what Coleman calls a "hybrid of all the things that professionals are looking for."

"It's a cocktail event, it's a happy hour event, it's a social event, it's a dinner event, it's a networking event," Coleman says. "It's really all of those things rolled into one."

Coleman will continue hosting his monthly parties at Opera, but he says he was compelled to diversify his offerings as Atlanta's gay nightlife goes through another metamorphosis from oversized nightclubs to more intimate venues.

"The week in-week out scene has been shifting a little more to the lounge scene and dinner scene," says Coleman, who expects a healthy turnout for the inaugural event. "We're expecting anywhere from between 250 to 450 people, but you really never know because the nightlife scene has really taken a dip in Atlanta, and this might be something more people are looking for."

SOCIAL TUESDAYS WILL FEATURE DINNER AND drink specials at some of Atlanta's hippest restaurants.

"The venues are very upscale, and more contemporary, a little more modern than just your typical pub," Coleman says. "We're going to stay in the Midtown, downtown, south Buckhead area right now."

Social Tuesdays kicks off at the Japanese-themed Geisha House, which features a modern, sexy décor and delicious sushi. On Oct. 7, Social Tuesdays takes over the Sky Bar Lounge at the Glenn Hotel, followed by visits to the new Tongue & Groove at the Lindberg City Center, and the new tapas bar Eros at the former piebar location at I-85 and Peachtree Circle.

"We're basically taking over the entire restaurant and bar area," Colemans says.

The Social Tuesdays website is up and running, and Coleman says it will be updated each Wednesday with photos from the previous night's events, as well as details for the next event. Social Tuesdays has already attracted corporate sponsors like Mercedes-Benz, and is hoping to build a cadre of about 12 partner restaurants to cycle through every three months.

"That's not set in stone yet, but we want to build relationships with the venues also," Coleman says.

Social Tuesdays
Sept. 30, 7-11 p.m.
Geisha House @ Atlantic Station
1380 Atlantic Dr.
404-872-3903
www.socialatl.com

Gym
Coffee House
Bartender
BEST OF GAY ATLANTA
BOGA 2008
Go to sovo.com to vote for your favorites.
Results will be published in the Best of Gay Atlanta issue Oct. 17, 2008. Voting ends Sept. 30, 2008
SO SOUTHERN VOICE VO

Music and motherhood

Ani DiFranco is back with first album since giving birth

SO SOUTHERN VOICE VO **MUSIC**

REBECCA ARMENDARIZ

FEMINIST ICON ANI DIFRANCO IS FULL OF NEW beginnings for her latest and 28th release, "Red Letter Year."

DiFranco gave birth to her first child, daughter Petah Lucia, whose father is co-producer Mike Napolitano, in 2007. "Red Letter Year" is her first album since.

DiFranco also chose a fresh group of backing musicians to help differentiate "Red Letter Year" from the rest of her extensive catalogue, all released on her own label, Righteous Babe Records.

The album opens with the title track, featuring the lush, warm glow of Jon Hassell's trumpet notes. DiFranco kicks off by referencing New Year's Eve and signifying a clean slate.

DiFranco is as much an activist as she is a musician. Her lyrics, while sometimes self referential, also tend to deal with political issues like racism, sexism, homophobia (she identifies as bisexual), reproductive freedom and war. It's no surprise that not even three minutes into "Red Letter Year," DiFranco is coyly referencing President George W. Bush.

"And representing the white race/A man with a monkey for a face/Is flying over in a helicopter/Whistling Dixie and playing dumb," she sings.

DiFranco supported Rep. Dennis Kucinich in both the 2004 and 2008 elections. The "Red Letter Year" term emerges as an obvious reference to this fall's presidential election.

"Alla This" ventures into more specific political territory.

"I won't pray to a male god/Cuz that would be insane/And I can't support the troops/Cuz every last one of them is being duped/And I will not rest a wink/Until the women have regrouped," she proclaims.

DIFRANCO'S SOUND, OFTEN DESCRIBED AS "folk" because of her acoustic pluckings, actually melds with punk in its audacity and brashness. Her defiance, anger and bravery are evident through her rhythmic singing style, urgent percussion, and buildup of the strings.

But that intensity fades as the record transitions into "Present/Infant," an uplifting track about her recent family addition. DiFranco's body insecurities of the past have faded since she became a mother. The soothing vibraphone notes turn "Present/Infant" into a lullaby.

The gritty "Smiling Underneath" has a slow, jazzy feel with synthesized, grooving drums and a warped bass line. In it, DiFranco pays tribute to her daughter's father, saying she's not bothered by anything as long as he's around.

DiFranco recorded "Red Letter Year" in New Orleans, another influential piece of the puzzle. The slow, easy feel of the album mimics that of the Crescent City. Even when her frustration with the current administration or state of the world pokes through on tracks, the sweetness found in her arrangements or word choices make for pleasurable listening.

ANI CRACKS THE MOLD OF THE RECORD HALFWAY through, on "Emancipated Minor." With Jeff Klein singing along, saucy bongos and the repeated line "Focus on the moon's groove/And groove with the moon," the album takes a foray into a faster tempo.

The longest, most redundant opus on the record is "The Atom," a song that reveals itself to be about nuclear weapons. It plods along with soft, sporadic drum rolls and a meandering acoustic guitar line. DiFranco's point is never realized after almost six minutes.

"Landing Gear" is another song for DiFranco's daughter. She makes a promise to her baby — "You're gonna love this world/If it's the last thing I do" over xylophones twinkling like a music box.

"Star Matter" bores again by featuring just whimsical singing about love and the cosmos over simple guitar chords. "Red Letter Year: Reprise" is DiFranco's ode to New Orleans, her song without lyrics played by a jazz band.

Ani DiFranco sings about politics and her new baby on 'Red Letter Year.' (Photo by Rhea Anna courtesy Righteous Babe Music)

'Red Letter Year'
by Ani DiFranco
Righteous Babe Music
www.righteousbabe.com

DiFranco has made a fan-anticipated record fit for an anticipated year in politics, which makes "Red Letter Year" so appropriate. The circumstances are perfect for her post-baby release.

BRUNCHALICIOUS

Only at Vickery's Midtown

$10

All You Can Eat Brunch Buffet
Saturdays & Sundays

Eggs, Bacon, Sausage, Potatoes, Grits, Fresh Fruit, Sliced Tomatoes, Biscuits, Toast and All The Fixins'

$15

Endless Mimosas & Bloodys!!
Regular menu also available.

Crescent Avenue VICKERY'S Bar & Grill

Outside Seating & Validated Parking

1106 Crescent Ave. • vickerys.com • 404.881.1106

Also, visit our other Vickery's location in Glenwood Park!

JOIN US EVERY TUESDAY

TWO 4 1 TUESDAYS

BUY ONE GET ONE FREE*
DINNER SPECIALS
TUESDAYS FROM 6PM - 10PM

CHOOSE ANY 2 DELICIOUS ENTREES FROM OUR SPECIAL MENU

BON APPETIT!

* Please no substitutions - Dine in only - Regular menu items do not apply. Beverage purchase required with each dinner. Free entree is of equal or lesser value

AMSTERDAM ATLANTA

CAFE SERVING DAILY 11:30AM - 10PM
AMSTERDAM WALK
502-A AMSTERDAM AVE
ATLANTA GA, 30306 404-892-2227
MYSPACE.COM/AMSTERDAMATLANTA

Professional Directory

Continued from page 39

YOUR CHOICE AUTO

Accident Forgiveness.
Your rates won't go up just because of an accident.
Get Allstate® Your Choice Auto Insurance today.
(770) 797 9547

LISA L WHITSTINE
440 South Peachtree Street
NORCROSS
lisawhitstine@allstate.com

Allstate. You're in good hands.

Discounts is optional and subject to terms and conditions. Available in select states now and in most states by 1/21/06 (subject to regulatory approval where required). Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL. © 2007 Allstate Insurance Company

www.ABSOLUTEBODYSYMMETRY.com
Presents
Creating your best body ever.

FEATURING
FITNESS & CONDITIONING SERVICES
IN-HOME TRAINING • GROUP TRAINING
NUTRITIONAL COUNCILING
6 WEEKS TO A BETTER YOU
Email: absbodysym@yahoo.com
404•502•4166
www.myspace.com/absolute_body_symmetry

THE GATHERING PLACE
ATLANTA
A Charismatic Christian Church
for Atlanta's GLBT Community
1874 Piedmont Rd., Suite 416-D
404.815.0007 www.tgpainfo.com

Your
INTOWN ATLANTA
Real Estate Experts!

Norma Palus
404-918-4270
Norma.Palus@ColdwellBankerAtlanta.com

Michael JW Smith
404-786-2057
Michael.Smith@ColdwellBankerAtlanta.com

COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

404-874-2262
Intown@ColdwellBankerAtlanta.com
1370 N. Highland Ave. - Atlanta, GA 30306

PIEDMONT BARK
www.piedmontbark.com
DOGGIE DAYCARE • BOARDING • GROOMING
Midtown Atlanta • 501 Amsterdam Ave. • 404-873-5400

Find what you're looking for in the SOUTHERN VOICE DIRECTORY
Call 404.876.1819 and ask to speak to a sales representative.

SAVE THOUSANDS ON YOUR NEXT PURCHASE
Buyers call 888-469-8779 ext. 90370
BRIAN FLACK
Associate Broker
The Brian Flack Homeselling Team for All Your Real Estate Needs & Goals
info@brianflack.com
EXIT REALTY PROPERTIES
FREE Reports for Buyers & Sellers available at www.BrianFlack.com

GOODYEAR
Gemini AUTOMOTIVE CARE
REPAIRS • MAINTENANCE • TIRES • OIL CHANGES
DOWNTOWN DECATUR
307 CLAIRMONT AVE.
DECATUR, GA 30030
404-377-5069
AVONDALE
3589 MEMORIAL DR.
DECATUR, GA 30032
404-284-8835
(Across from new Walmart)
MON-FRI: 7:30am - 6:30pm
SAT: 7:30am - 5:00pm
ASE CERTIFIED TECHNICIANS
AAA

"The greatest and sublimest power is simple patience" -Horace Bushnell
Patience gives you the power to choose. I'm here to help you make the right move, not rush you into the wrong one.
ReMax Greater Atlanta | 404.609.9898
JOHN PETROU
www.johnpetrou.com
RE/MAX

MY VISTA TRAVEL
Let us show you how to start a Prosperous Home Based Internet Business!
Turning fun into FORTUNE! Take a vacation while making commission $$$

• HUGE TAX BENEFITS
• TRAVEL AGENT DISCOUNTS
• UNLIMITED INCOME POTENTIAL
404-451-9280
VISIT OUR SITE TODAY!
www.myvistatravel.com

When Buying or Selling Your Home ...
Call
Jerrilyn Levetan
In-Town Residential Specialist
... Because YOU Deserve the Best!
RE/MAX Metro Atlanta
Office: 404.371.4419
Toll Free: 800.226.3123
JL@remax.net
www.AtlantaHomesByJerrilyn.com

INVEST IN SOME PRIME REAL ESTATE
Southern Voice Real Estate Directory
Call 404.876.1819 and ask to speak with a sales executive today

Real Estate Directory

Gay culture's history of tattooing thrives in ATL

TATTOOS, continued from **Page 33**

would remind me of them," says King, 40. "The owner did it for free because he said it was the first time anybody had done one of those."

"I thought that was going to be it, but it started getting addicting."

King next got the Human Rights Campaign's equality logo tattooed on his right chest, then embarked on a much larger art piece honoring his family. The tattoo covers both sides of King's torso and incorporates a tribute to his grandparents' Cherokee heritage, the crucifix from his mother's grave, and the words "mother, love, hurts" written in Korean.

The piece took about five years to complete, but King doesn't get to show it off as much as he used to. King also got a tattoo of a tiger across his abdomen, which is the reason he usually keeps his shirt on.

"When I moved here, I was walking through Piedmont Park, and someone complimented me on my tattoo, and he said, 'I've seen that before,'" King recalls.

It turns out a gay porn star has an identical tiger, and after a few more instances of mistaken identity, King says, "I've been kind of keeping my shirt on ever since."

Dindi Doward's fascination with tattoos began when she would color all over her Barbie dolls. As an adult, Doward combined her love of ink and beautiful ladies by getting three tattoos of women, including a large pin-up doll on her shoulder.

"I'm fascinated with pin-ups — they're very beautiful but very strong," says Doward, 32. After each tattoo, Doward kept saying she wanted one more, thrilled by the rush of getting inked and expressing herself through body art.

"Even before people meet you, if they look at your tattoos — and not just that you're a tattooed person — but if they pay attention to the tattoos, then they already know a little about you and your personality," says Doward, who is scheduled to get tattooed at the Florida shop featured in the television show "Miami Ink" next month.

"That's like the whole cherry on top of my trip," she says.

GAY PEOPLE HAVE A RICH HISTORY WITH TATTOOING, which has exploded in popularity in recent decades, says Johnny Hollywood, who is gay and owns the 13 Roses tattoo parlor in East Atlanta.

"In 1987, I would walk down the street and my arms were solidly colored and people would stare," says Hollywood, 48. "Now I go to the grocery store, and there might be a half-dozen other guys with full [tattoo] sleeves."

Before tattoos became a part of pop culture, they were primarily seen on sailors and people most considered freaks. Because getting a tattoo had a marginalizing affect, already-marginalized gay men who flocked to San Francisco in the middle of last century experimented liberally with tattooing.

"You were already setting yourself apart as an outsider, so you were open to more things," says Hollywood, who has a Japanese-style tattoo covering most of his body.

Pioneering tattoo artists like Ed Hardy — whose designs are prominently featured in modern T-shirt prints — perfected his Japanese-style epic tattoos on gay men in California. One of Hardy's contemporaries was Cliff Raven, a gay tattoo artist who was a force in Chicago and California's tattooing history.

Hollywood has seen lots of tattoo trends come and go, from the "HIV +" or "hazardous" logo that some gay men began adopting in the '90s, to the craze of tribal armbands. Whether trendy or unique, Hollywood says tattoos allow people to "really sort of create your own identity."

"I think there's something in the larger scheme of showing your commitment to this image, or idea, or this is a part of me — I think that's a powerful statement," Hollywood says.

CRISTY NOTE IS AT 13 ROSES TUESDAY, MAKING HER fourth attempt to get her fourth tattoo after canceling three earlier appointments. Note has a caution about this tattoo — an image of Jesus hovering over a frightened young girl in a fetal position — that she didn't have when she was younger.

"As soon as I turned 18, I went and got a tattoo," says Note, 28. "The more I get educated about it though, the more selective I am about what I put on me. The first tattoos — this one, this one, and this one — it was just like something to do.

"Now I just really make sure it's something that I can live with forever, that I really thought about," she says. "I believe they should really mean something to you, since you're putting permanent art on your body."

One source of apprehension about the tattoo is Note's girlfriend, whose name is already inked on Note's back.

"My girlfriend does not want me to get this right now — she's mad at me, but I wanted to do it," Note says. "We have a really strong spiritual background, so she just kind of feels like tattoos are sort of a desecration."

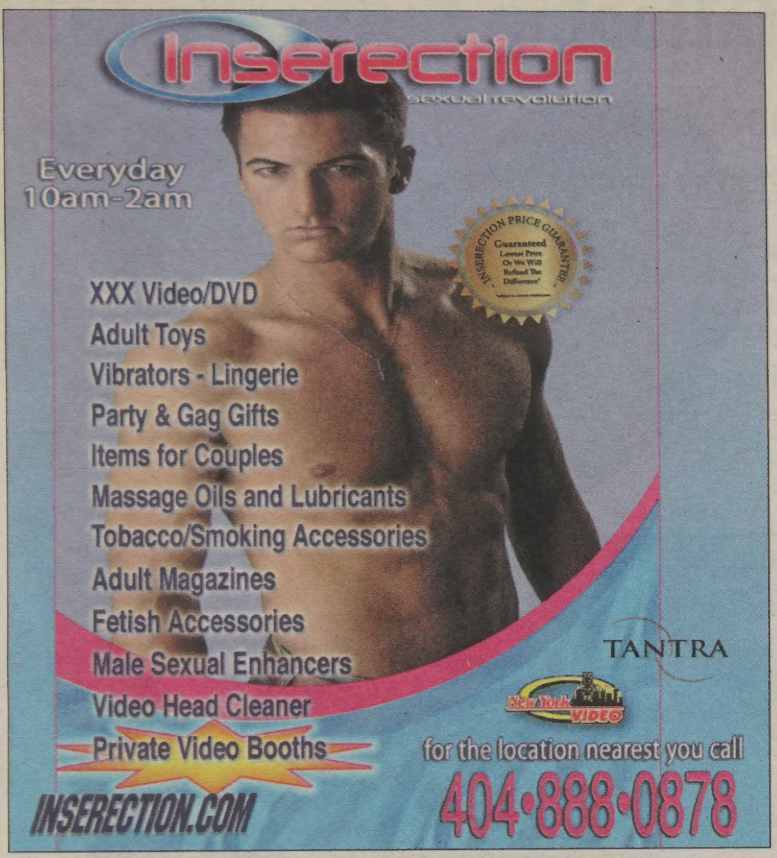
Jesse Klein also expresses her spirituality in her seven tattoos, which she first started getting at age 18. Her most recent body art is a colorful bird she got during a July trip to California, but her favorite piece is a black-and-white shoulder tattoo of the word "Jesus" beneath two hands about to touch.

"It was the day I got sober," says Klein, 25, who struggled with drug use. "I just wanted a way out, and I just saw a vision of this hand reaching out for me and pulling me out of whatever I was in. I decided to commemorate that moment because I just felt like it was God reaching out to me."

Klein has relied on in-house art for tattoos in the past, but she envisions herself getting more tattoos — possibly an entire sleeve — and wants her body art to be symbolic.

"I want to go for more meaningful tattoos — I don't want to just get inked with flowers or something that doesn't mean anything to me," she says.

Large, right: **Jerone King**
Inset, from top: **Dindi Doward, Jesse Klein** and **Denise Moss** (Doward and Moss photos courtesy of individuals. All other photos by Bo Shell)



GAY & BI LOCALS
CALL•CRUISE
CONNECT
Listen & Reply to Ads FREE!
Atlanta
404.244.7000
FREE code 4654
For other cities call
(888) MegaMates
Where FREE Means FREE!
CALL NOW!
FREE to create a profile
FREE to record a personal ad
FREE to listen to public ads
FREE to send messages
FREE to accept chat requests
FREE to accept calls from users
FREE to receive message alerts
& So Much More . . .
GAYMATES.COM
24/7 Friendly Customer Care 1(888)MegaMates 18+ ©2008 PC LLC

And baby makes gay

Putting the gay in 'Gayken'

Clay Aiken (Photo from people.com)

Dish has so much praise to dole out this week. The changing seasons send us into a tizzy, anyway, but to be able to offer rounds of applause to the newest members of the gay club sends us over the edge.

CLAY AIKEN, who's the baby daddy to his music producer **JAYMES FOSTER**, came out to People magazine this week as a "gay dad." That child better get used to **JUDY GARLAND** lullabies!

In other facing-the-truth news, Dish can't believe that **LINDSAY LOHAN** went on the radio to acknowledge her blossoming lesbian love affair, just days before she is anticipated at WETbar's closing weekend. Couldn't LIndsay have sent out a mass text message like Barack Obama? She should know that's the only way "we" communicate these days.

LiLo and her heretofore rumored fiancee **SAMANTHA RONSON**, who DJs WETbar's last Friday on Sept. 26, called into Loveline, and after **DJ TED STRYKER** had the cojones to oh-so-casually ask them how long they've been together, Lindsay responded, "A long ... a very long time."

Dish was tired of waiting for the other go-go boot to drop!

Congratulations to Lindsay and Sam for finally catching on, like **JOHN MCCAIN**, to the fact that vaginas are en vogue this year.

Of course, we all knew it was coming, as Dish has been stalking LiLo's MySpace for weeks, just waiting for her next political rant to be published. She's already railed on gay marriage foes, and maybe she'll now tackle the effects of global warming on Dish's tan lines. Priorities, Lindsay ...

dish
There's a Fine Line Between Telling the Truth and Talking Trash

Sam won't spin lesbian landmark

Lindsay Lohan (Photo by AP)

Despite the recent revelations in LiLo and Sam Ronson's relationship and the couple's frequent PDA (Dish advises they take it off the streets and get a room), Ronson has turned down a DJ gig at West Village lesbian institution Rubyfruit.

The bar's been open for 15 years, as long as it's been since Dish's bod contained no synthetic materials. Now that a wealthy donor gave the bar some money to stay open and remodel, they want Sam to DJ the bar's premiere benefit party!

Sam's not into it, though. Page Six says the reason is that the DJ "doesn't do those kinds of venues."

Dish is sure she means venues that have just undergone construction. Paint fumes and dust, ugh, so bad for the delicate cherub's skin!

Lance does a dance

Lance Bass (Photo by AP)

Former 'N Sync-er **LANCE BASS** made his "Dancing with the Stars" debut this week, dispelling all rumors that he was the worst dancer from the former boy band. He's kicking his heels up along with **LACEY SCHWIMMER** as his pro-partner.

This week, the duo began their run with a sexy cha-cha, receiving a score of 22 out of 30.

Bass told People magazine last week that he's been wearing heels as part of his training, calling his tootsies "swollen sausages." Swollen sausages and high heels? Dish knows a little too much about that combination.

These days Bass is still dating Brazilian personal trainer **SEBASTIAN LEAL**, who has major baggage — a not-yet-ex wife!

Send comments, suggestions to **Dish@sovo.com**

SOUTHERN VOICE CLASSIFIEDS

WWW.SOVO.COM/CLASSIFIEDS

Tiffany Broadwater 404.876.1819 ext. 33

Deadline to place a classified ad for Friday's publication is Monday at 5:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH SERVING all of our community. Visit us every Sunday at 11:00. Now at the Event Space, North Ave & Boulevard. (404) 906-3293 www.goodshepherdiccc.org

SOVO CELEBRATIONS is a free monthly column where readers can announce weddings, commitment ceremonies, engagements, births, adoptions, promotions, awards, anniversaries, birthdays ó any celebration you want to share with our community. The column is published in the first issue of each month. The deadline is Sept. 2 for next months column, which will appear in the Sept. 5 issue. Email entries to celebrations@sovo.com. Please include the text as you want the entry to read. Full names and contact information must be included so that information can be confirmed, but this information will not be published unless requested.

BEAUTY SUPPLY & SERVICES

JOIN*AN*ALLSTAR*TEAM*TODAY
*AVON*REPS*WANTED*FOR*THE*MIDTOWN*BUCKHEAD*AREA*
No retail products needed to start just Great Attitude.
Earn as much as you want!
English Spanish Reps needed!!
Call: A.J. (678) 480-2889
BeBeautifulBeYou@bellsouth.net
Avonwithaj.com Free/shipping/code/repfs

Private*Suite*Experience
HAIRCUT*HIGHLIGHTS*AND*MORE
Call A.J. Today (678) 480-2889
For directions and pricing/see
BeBeautifulBeYouStudio.com
Healthandbeautyhome.com
(By Appointment Only)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

SUCCESSFUL GAY HOTEL in Puerto Vallarta Gayborhood seeks partners for major expansion. Excellent opportunity for profit & long-term capital gain. Six years in business, real estate already owned. Toll free (866) 388-2689 or info@hotel-mercurio.com

AS PART OF OUR EXTENDED PROGRAM, I here introduce a Part Time Work Program to you, it pays any amount in a month plus benefits and takes only little of your time. Please send e-mail to Onlinebreedersltd@yahoo.com

PORTABLE HOME BUSINESS Are you seriously looking for a lucrative business? You can start today and move anywhere with it tomorrow. Free 2 minute message:(800) 581-1871

BUY / SELL

BRAND NEW KING size pillowtop mattress & box set. NEW! Still in plastic, manufacturer wrnty! $235 Delivery avail. (770) 875-843.4

BRAND NEW MICROFIBER Sofa & loveseat. NEW! Stain-resistant. Still in boxes. $399 Can deliver. (678) 754-5075.

A 5PC. COUNTER Height Table & Chairs. All NEW! Still in packaging. $250 Can deliver. Call (770) 875-8434.

CLEANING

WHITECLOUD CLEANING SERVICES Home and office cleaning, reasonable rates. http//www.freewebs.com/ginawhitecloud. We service 24/7, please call (678) 765-7761.

YOU DESERVE THE BEST Your home is a source of pride. Let me keep it spic'n span. Reliable service at reasonable rates. Call Wilson @ (678) 777-8637 wilsonsilva32@hotmail.com

DETAIL ORIENTED HOUSE CLEANER
Professional, Trustworthy, Dependable,
Affordable and Great References.
Now working all over Metro
Atlanta. Call Gary at (678) 463-0751

ELECTRICAL

AN ELECTRICAL SERVICE COMPANY CEL, INC. All your electrical needs!!!! Eric Campbell, (770) 595-0426

EMPLOYMENT

STYLIST WANTED For SALON 2000, a well established, cutting edge Ansley Mall salon. F/T, High Commission, Prime Midtown Location. Stop by or call for an interview @ (404) 872-9050 Please see our ad in this weeks David Magazine.

TAKE BACK THE WHITEHOUSE! Come work for the Democratic Party of Georgia. $300-600 weekly Call Beth at (678) 278-2020 www.georgiademocrat.org/jobs

CAREGIVER
Are you a warm compassionate person with the desire to help the elderly? Thought about providing in-home companionship and assistance? Call us! Flexible schedules available. CNA a plus! CAR REQUIRED.

Home Instead Senior Care
(770) 392-1070
www.homeinstead.com

JOIN OUR 1ST CLASS SALES TEAM! Southern Voice & David Atlanta Magazine-Two of the finest publications in Georgia and the only publications produced for the GLBT Community.

We are currently seeking sales professionals to join our successful team. Qualified candidates should have previous advertising sales experience, possess excellent communication and negotiation skills and above all, you must want to be successful. Limitless opportunities exist for self-motivated, driven individuals.

Excellent comms + benefits (incl. Dental)

Email resume to tlee@sovo.com

SERIOUS HOMEWORKERS NEEDED to work PT or FT, 2-3 hrs per wk from your PC & around your schedule. Earn $3,500-$5,000 per mn. Serious home workers only. Experience not necessary email at employcompany03@gmail.com for details.

SOUTHERN VOICE SEEKS EDITORIAL INTERNS, freelance writers and freelance photographers. Intern applicants should be college students interested in a career in journalism who are available for a minimum of 10 hours per week. Freelance writers must have previous publication experience. For consideration, email cover letter, resume, and three samples of your work (writing clips or photographs) to editor@sovo.com. Walk-ins and phone calls not accepted. Due to volume, please understand that we cannot respond to all applicants.

GENERAL SERVICES

BE AN A LISTER Go to sovo.com and sign up to receive weekly updates, latest news, events, exclusive invitations and more.

PLACE YOUR AD ONLINE
www.sovo.com

HEALTH & FITNESS

Clay Miller

HELP WANTED

MYSTERY SHOPPERS earn up to $150 per day, undercover shoppers needed to judge retail and dining establishments. Experience not required. Please call (877) 688-1583

HOME IMPROVEMENT

TOM PERKINS
Roofing Contractor
Consulting & Inspections
Tile · Slate · Modified · Shingles
Residential & Commercial
40 Years Experience
REPAIRS
Flashing Expert
Before You Buy, Let Us Inspect
770-258-4953
Cell: 770-294-0598

A-1 ROOFING & REMODELING Looking for honesty? Dependability? Call Bobby at A-1 ROOFING & REMODELING. All Types of Roofing & Repairs. Vinyl Siding/Carpentry/Room Additions. Handyman Service/Emergency Service. Office:(404) 627-6909, Cell:(404) 787-7001 or (404) 787-7002, Pager:(404) 899-7271 Visa/MC/Amex/Dscvr. GE Financing Available. Member of BBB. www.a1roof-remodeling.com

ELECTRICAL SERVICES Exp in old residential wiring (newer also) & small commercial jobs. Lic & insured. (770) 435-5178 gallmanelectric@charter.net

FLOOR SAG OR SHAKE?? We level floors, repair termite and water damage, replace rotted joist, timber & piers.
Insured & ALL work guaranteed.
Specializing in structural repairs.
Holland Contracting
Free Estimates
(770) 433-6220

HOME MAINTENANCE SERVICE Kitchens, Baths, Doors, Windows, Trim, Built-ins, Decks, Painting, Electrical, Plumbing, General Repairs. 30 Years Experience John (770) 736-5433 HMSATL@COMCAST.NET

QUALITY HOME SERVICES @ affordable prices. Int / Ext Painting, Drywall, General Repairs, Floors, Wood Refinishing. Insured and references able. Call 404-281-6161 for free estimate, or www.redtail-painters.com

LANDSCAPING

LANDSCAPE DESIGN SOLUTIONS Let Atlanta's only English garden designer transform your garden into your personal sanctuary. FREE consultation. Contact Phil at: yourenglishgardener@yahoo.com, (404) 771-8706

JANITORIAL SERVICES

JACOB'S JANITORIAL SERVICES. (Home or Business) Professionally trained with experience to provide you with the best services. Daily, wkly, monthly, or one time visits. 15%off first visit with two visit minimum. Call for free estimates. (404) 543-9228.

MOVING

MCCLOUD MOVING SERVICES
Residential & Commercial. "Gay Owned & Operated" Please see our Web-Sight http://www.mccloudmoving.com. Atlanta-Statewide-Nationwide (678) 765-7761. Credit and debit cards accepted as well as e-check.

MASSAGE

NOTICE TO MASSAGE ADVERTISERS Georgia law requires that massage advertisers must include a current business license number within their ad and should be prepared to provide photo identification and educational credentials to Publisher upon request.

24HR RELAXATION Sensual erotic relaxation w/a good old fashioned rub down by good looking masculine mature top red head. Release your stress. (404) 875-2850

EXPERIENCE RELAXING full-body massage. Exp'd, professionally trained therapist. Combining Swedish, Shiatsu & Reflexology for a great massage. Decatur location. In/Out. Great rates. Mike (770) 309-4490.

INTUITIVE TOUCH Close to Midtown, Swedish, deep tissue, stretching. Licensed masseur releasing all of your tensions with full-body therapy from head to toe. William Cell:(404) 538-4770 Office:(404) 212-8430

MUSCULAR CERTIFIED MASSEUR 5'8 170lbs military look provides FULLbody "sen" for men. Shaves/trims/waxing also available monsun,visit www.manssage.info,call Mike Falen @ (678) 772-7646 #021927

WWW.EMMANUELALWAYS.BIZ LATINO BODYWORK THERAPIST 100% Professional / Legitimate / Certified. 11+ yrs exp. 7 techniques. 1st Timers: $44. OUT-$80. Smyrna/Vinings area. (404) 275-1326

PETS & SUPPLIES

LOW COST SPAYS, neuters and vaccines call SANTA 678-354-7200 www.spay-neuterteam.com

PHONE FANTASY

MEET SEXY LOCAL GUYS Your # 1 Gay Dateline... Hook up & date NOW! Browse & listen FREE! (404) 244-7000 Atlanta. (678) 804-0200 Buford. FREE Code 5650. Visit www.MegaMates.com. 18+

RENT / ATLANTA

4BED/3BATHS $500/ALL UTILITIES included. Near 75 & 285 public transportation Kennesaw State Univ Southern Polytechnic Call Terri 404-402-[illegible]

SOUTHERN VOICE CLASSIFIEDS

WWW.SOVO.COM/CLASSIFIEDS 404.876.1819 EXT. 33

Deadline to place a classified ad for Friday's publication is Monday at 5:30 p.m.

ATLANTA/DUNWOODY RENTAL New Dunwoody Mid-Rise apartments first month free $99 move in special 1BRs from $939 & 2BR from $1199 (770) 396-0400 Apply online at www.2batlanta.com

YOU'RE ALMOST HOME! 3 BR /2 full BA with deck and Lg Backyard for your new flower beds! SECURITY SYSTEM AND NEW LAMINATE FLOORS! Downtown ATL. Contact Agent: (678) 361-7170 optimummanagement@yahoo.com

BUCKHEAD/LENOX *Lg 1BR inside luxury home w/priv BA. Convenient location. Access to kit & W/D. All util's incl. $450/mo. Quiet, Neat Person Please. (404) 636-1793 dcrossman@bellsouth.net

COLLEGE PARK (HISTORIC) 1BR w/den. $450 to $550/mo. $100 sec. dep. Perfect for cycling/walking. MARTA. Close to Airport. Granite c'tops, ceramic tile. Two-blks fr Woodward Academy. (678) 791-8330.

DECATUR / EMORY / PINE LAKE If you want to live at the lake or in the mtns. yet must work in the city this is the home for you. Lake front 3 BR / 2 BA, 6 mi from Decatur sqaure. $1600 mth. Call (404) 441-4486. Lake view from all rooms, fishing and swimming.

DECATUR, 3 BD, 2 1/2 bath, 476 Jointer Ave, close to 285/85/20, upscale home in upcoming neighborhood, 5 min to emory/cdc, ss apps, marble countertops, wet bar, fireplace, deck, blinds, marble foyer, wood floor, alarm, sec. lights, tmgrp.org for pics. $1295 Mike 770-380-0320 www.tmgrp.org

DEKALB/KIRKWOOD 4BR 2BA Duplex, central heat/air, appliances, hardwoods, w/d connection, off street parking. Discount rent $995/mo Call (404) 523-6136 ext. 11

EDGEWOOD COLONIAL CHARMER 2BR/1BA renovated bungalow new appliances. Off street parking & large kitchen deck. Minutes to Little Five Points, East Atlanta Village, Midtown and MARTA. $1250/mo annual lease. Avail Oct 1. get2corey@gmail.com

GREAT HOUSE, VERY Gay Neighborhood- 15 min to Midtown. Built in 1944, 2BR hardwoods, fireplace, sunporch, garage fenced backyard. New HVAC, W/D included, security system. $750 - Dogs OK. (404) 277-9043

SMALL ADS GET BIG RESULTS
404.876.1819, ext. 33
or place your adonline at
www.sovo.com

INTOWN EAST POINT 2bd/2ba home. $1300/ mo. open front & screened back porches, fenced yard, friendly pets welcome, near marta, bars & restaurants. 404-349-6890 neelyave_1723@yahoo.com

LOFT IN HIGHLANDS 1BD/1-1/2BA, secured building/parking with assigned spot. Washer, dryer, fridge included. View of the city and close to Highlands. Lease for $1,575/mo. Tom @ 678-207-6205. http://www.realtor.com/realestate/atlanta-ga-30306-1099318282/

TOWNHOME FOR RENT Morningside/Emory 2BD/2.5 BA discount rent available $1555 mn. hardwood, w/d, CHA, dishwasher, frig, min from Downtown, Midtown, VA Highland, Emory, Buckhead, & Decatur on busline. (404) 815-9785

SALE / ATLANTA

PINE LAKE TRADITIONAL 4BR/2.5BA like new home, open flpn, hdwds on main, new carpet upstairs, full basement, 2 party decks w/ hot tub, & fenced yard. Seller Motivated! $243,900. CAll The Minich Team (404) 292-7800.

MAGNIFICENT BUCKHEAD VALUE! 622 Longleaf Dr.- 3BDR/3BA-Priced under Tax App. Value @ $625,000! Not your average 60's ranch-custom built for entertaining; oversized rooms. Prof. landscaped 1/2 acre yard. Fin. basemnt, walk up attic ready to be 2nd floor. Walk to Phipps, Lenox & more! For more info visit www.debbybraun.com or call Debby Braun, Keller Williams Realty-First Atlanta, 404-372-9556. www.homescenes.com/_pgm/hs_TourMain.cfm?MLSID=3781951&PropertyID=45065&ShowLogo=Y

SPARKLING MIDTOWN BUNGELOW 805 Charles Allen Drive- Walk to Piedmont Park. 3BR/2BA New roof, windows, and California closets. Party decks, off street parking. $460,000 Prudential Georgia Realty (770) 972-3811x1406 Charlotte (404) 213-1151

SALE / ELSEWHERE

DAYTONA BEACH FLORIDA Grand home built in 1928. Walk to beach, pier, and other activities. 3BD/2BA, Fully updated; Brand new kitchen, heart pine floors & trim, duel hvac, transferable termite bond. Buy now and participate in shaping Daytona's future. 386-453-5979-Gene Camp

VACATION HOME IN Gated Mountain Gay & Lesbian Community near Boone, NC. 2160 sf log sided cabin in Paradise. www.719care-freecove.homestead.com

SHARE / ATLANTA

NE METRO. GAY to share house, 20 minutes to Midtown. 2 BR, Priv BA. $600/mo, includes util. C.P (678) 372-2993.

TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

BAHAMAS ALL-INCLUSIVE
4 Days / 3 Nights Complete Package
$459.00 - $699.00 per person
Meals, Drinks & More!
www.GoBahama.com
(888) 852-3224

Q-PUZZLE: Lesbian/Woman

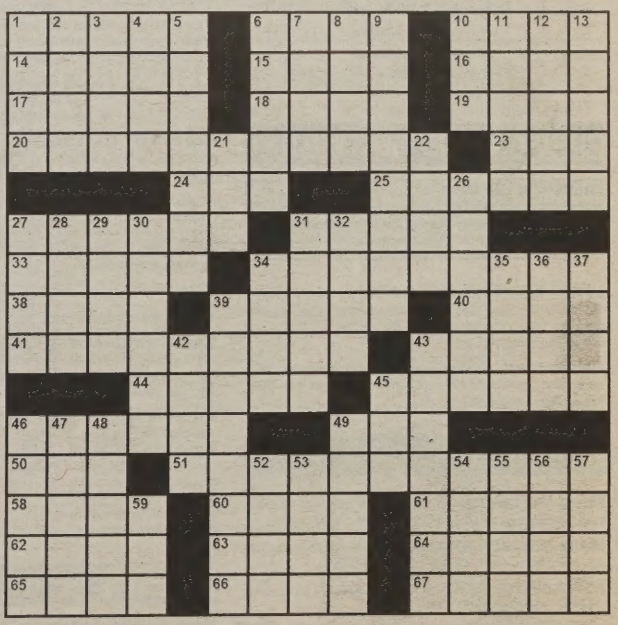
A tribute to Del Martin (See story, Page 16)

Across

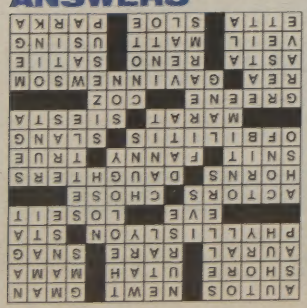
1. Rainbow flag sticker sites, often
6. Candace Gingrich's half-brother
10. Guy under Hoover
14. Dinah of a golf classic
15. State where two women could be in a marriage, formerly
16. One of the Three Bears
17. Like phone sex
18. Internally pink
19. Problem for a drag queen's hosiery
20. Longtime spouse of Del Martin
23. Dupont Cir., on the Metro
24. Fruit eater
25. Go nuts
27. Rupert Everett and Simon Callow
31. Selected guys to play with
33. Band members blow them
34. With 41-Across, organization founded by Del Martin
38. Prissy hissy
39. Role for Barbra
40. Stephen McCauley's " ___ Enough"
41. See 34-Across
43. "Mary" and "Nelly," e.g.
44. Revolutionary of Colette's country
45. Sleep with Kahlo?
46. Gay novelist Harlan
49. Kid of a parent's sib
50. "Breakfast on Pluto" actor Stephen
51. Mayor who officiated at the marriage of Del Martin and 20-Across
58. Nick was his master
60. Janet or niece Hunter
61. Debussy contemporary Erik
62. What either bride may wear
63. Foreman, formerly of NGLTF
64. Treating as a sexual object
65. Katharine's Butch Cassidy role
66. Fruit flavor for gin
67. Hooded coat at Telluride

Down

1. Lickety-split (abbr.)
2. Ejaculation of refusal
3. Party affiliation of M.P. Alan Duncan
4. Type of stimulation
5. Wall Street bears
6. Career option for Jack McFarland
7. And others, for Caesar
8. Tight-assed
9. Field for Jane Spahr
10. Execs in Glenn Burke's sport
11. Home for Troy Perry
12. Place for a G-string
13. Pester, as Albert to Armand
21. Dr. George O'Malley has them inserted
22. Enjoy some ladyfingers, e.g.
26. Sink to the bottom
27. Facetious "I see"
28. Eastern, to the NY Liberty
29. Hulbert Creek to Russian Riv.
30. How punctual people come
31. "Shut your pie hole!"
32. Barbarians that are almost hung?
34. What a computer may spit out
35. Hunks of history
36. Smallest member
37. Nintendo rival
39. They take a powder and shoot off
42. Singer k.d.
43. Estimates the stats of
45. Jason to Barbra
46. "... you shall find me a ___ man" (Shakespeare)
47. International Gay Bowling Organization button
48. Weird Al Yankovic song about blow jobs?
49. 100 smackers
52. Young meat
53. Sondheim's " ___ the Woods'
54. Cary Grant's "I ___ Male War Bride"
55. Direction from Stephen Pyles
56. Porking noise?
57. Huge opening?
59. Home st. of Harper Lee



ANSWERS



SOVO CELEBRATIONS

Southern Voice wants to help you share your Celebrations with our community in a new monthly column. Please send submissions to celebrate@sovo.com.

Please submit announcements for:
- Weddings • Commitment Ceremonies
- Engagements • Births • Adoptions • Promotions
- Awards • Other Celebrations

The deadline for inclusion in the Oct. 3 issue is Sept. 29.

Entries are limited to no more than 100 words and can be accompanied by a picture. A phone number and e-mail address are required for verification, but will not be published.

Genre

Hey Sovo Readers . . . I'm smart, funny, well-dressed and not afraid to walk around in my underwear. Want to get together sometime? — Genre

The nation's longest-running magazine for gay men. Get your subscription for 50% off 10 issues for only $9.95! Visit GenreMagazine.com today.

SO SOUTHERN VOICE VO SAVERS

Buy a $50 Gift Card to

Azul Day Spa

444 Bill Kennedy Way • Suite 103 • Atlanta, GA 30316
Book your appointment at 404-622-1972

for only $25!

Purchase your discount card at
sovo.com/savers

Gift cards are also available for*:

G salon | spa | store

*Gift card values vary.

new charlotte, nc location

GRAND OPENING SALE

NOW THRU SUN OCT 5TH

CELEBRATE THE GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW BY DESIGN CHARLOTTE, NC STORE

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE GREAT OFFERS AT ALL LOCATIONS:

- $100 OFF WITH EVERY $1000 PURCHASE*
- GRAND OPENING SPECIALS WITH SAVINGS UP TO 30% OFF
- YELLOW TAGGED CLEARANCE ITEMS WITH SAVINGS UP TO 50% OFF
- SPECIAL FINANCE OFFERS**
- FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A $5000 SHOPPING SPREE, REGISTER BY VISITING A BY DESIGN LOCATION NEAR YOU OR AT WWW.BYDESIGNFURNITURE.COM

By Desōgn

international furniture collection

NORCROSS: 6348 Dawson Blvd. Norcross GA 30093 770-840-8832
MIDTOWN: 1747 Cheshire Bridge Rd. Atlanta GA 30324 404-607-9098
OUTLET: 6353 Warren Drive Norcross GA 30093 770-840-7056

Other Locations: Charlotte • Pineville • Cherry Hill • Marlboro

www.bydesignfurniture.com

*Merchandise only, assembly and delivery not included.
**With approved credit. Minimum purchase may be required. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Not applicable to previous purchases.